

Mitterrand sends letter to Habre

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand has sent a letter to Chad President Hissene Habre aimed at soothing ruffled feelings after France and Libya decided to withdraw their troops from his country, diplomatic sources said Sunday. Mr. Mitterrand's office confirmed that the message was delivered in the Chadian capital N'djamena on Friday by Jean Aussel, a senior French diplomat, but declined to disclose its contents. Diplomatic sources said the message was an attempt to explain to Mr. Habre why France had decided to end its "Operation Manta" involving some 3,200 French soldiers sent to Chad in August 1983 to halt a Libyan-backed rebel drive. "The mission of the Manta force was to stop the progress of a foreign force and to obtain its departure," an External Relations Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

See related stories on page 2

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز: جريدة سياسية عربية مستقلة، تُنشر من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

Arab League Council meets today

TUNIS (R) — The 82nd session of the Arab League Council of Ministers is due to open here Monday without any foreign ministers, most of whom are attending the current session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. League sources said permanent representatives of the 21-member council would attend the session, while Arab foreign ministers would meet in New York. They said ministers meeting in New York would probably discuss problems related to the next Arab summit, originally scheduled for November in Riyadh but which Arab diplomats here believe will be postponed. Arab diplomats said one of the main obstacles to holding the Arab summit was the deadlock over the Palestinian question, after the indefinite postponement of a meeting of the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) originally slated for this month.

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Arabsat launch postponed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Arab satellite, Arabsat, will not be launched until January 1985, Corporation (TCC) Director Mohammad Shahed Ismail, said Sunday. Mr. Ismail said that the European Ariane space agency had taken a unilateral decision to postpone the launch of the Arabsat into space. The original date for the launch was October 1984, Mr. Ismail said.

Syria will not oppose Israel pact — Gemayel

BONN (R) — Syria would not oppose a security treaty between Lebanon and Israel, Lebanese President Amin Gemayel said in an interview with the West German magazine Der Spiegel. Mr. Gemayel was quoted as saying in the interview, published Monday, that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had agreed "to stop elements threatening the peace from entering southern Lebanon" and would not oppose a Lebanese-Israeli security treaty.

Chernenko awarded Order of Lenin

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko was Sunday awarded the Order of Lenin and the gold "Hammer and Sickle" medal to mark his 73rd birthday Monday. An announcement carried by the official news agency TASS said the Soviet leadership had honored the president for his activities in developing the economy and culture and strengthening the country's defense capacity. The president already has two Orders of Lenin and two Hammer and Sickle medals.

Nigeria quits OAU committee

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria has withdrawn from a special committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) set up to try to bring peace to the Western Sahara, where Morocco and the Polisario Front have been at war since 1976, the Sunday Tribune newspaper said. It quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying Nigeria took the action because of Morocco's "refusal to cooperate" with the committee in arranging a ceasefire between Morocco and the Algerian-backed guerrillas fighting in the former Spanish territory.

Soviet bombers fly over Japanese sea

TOKYO (R) — Japanese fighter planes were scrambled Sunday when Soviet aircraft, including a supersonic "Backfire" bomber, appeared off northern Japan, the Defense Agency said. An agency spokesman said 16 planes took off from four bases as the Soviet aircraft flew south over the Sea of Japan after appearing off Japan's main northern island of Hokkaido. The Soviet aircraft, which included at least 20 TU-22M Backfire bombers, flew over the Sea of Japan in what defense experts said appeared to be a big exercise, the agency said.

Commandos mount sea-borne raid near Awali Resistance stages daring attacks against Israelis

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Commandos aboard a rubber dinghy staged a daring attack against the Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon in a series of resistance operations Sunday.

The Israeli army claimed only six of its soldiers were wounded in the attacks, and there was no way to verify the Israeli claim because the areas of the attacks were sealed off immediately.

Three of the commandos aboard the dinghy — including a girl of 19 — were killed when an Israeli gunboat traded fire with them, according to sources quoted by various news agencies. The Israeli army claimed that two other commandos were wounded and taken prisoners.

The attack, the first sea-borne raid on Israeli troops in the south since they invaded Lebanon in 1982, was one of three Sunday in which six commandos died and two were wounded, and six Israelis were wounded, according to the sources.

The attacks came as several hundred people demonstrated in Beirut to mark the second anniversary of the start of the "Lebanese National Resistance Movement" in South Lebanon.

In Sidon, Lebanese security sources quoted by Reuters said three commandos aged 17 to 19 fired automatic weapons and a rocket-propelled grenade from the dinghy at Israeli troops guarding the Awali River bridge crossing into Israeli-occupied territory.

They wounded a soldier in the hand before being killed by tank fire from the shore and machine-gun fire from an Israeli gunboat, the sources said. Beirut Radio said the exchange lasted five minutes.

An Israeli army source in Sidon said three of the commandos were killed and two others were wounded and captured in the 6 a.m. (0300 GMT) assault. Addresses found on the dead indicated they came from a Beirut suburb, he added.

An Israeli spokesman said one of the dead commandos was a woman, but he said he did not know the nationalities of any of the team, which came ashore in a motorised rubber dinghy at the Awali River 60 kilometres north of the Lebanese-Israeli border. The Awali is the Israeli army's northern-most line on the Mediterranean coast.

Reports from Beirut quoted sources in the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" militia as saying the dead woman was French and the two dead men were Palestinians.

The Israeli command said the rubber dinghy was heading south when an Israeli patrol boat spotted it and gave chase. The dinghy turned toward land, and its five-person squad got out and started wading to the shore when an Israeli ground patrol approached.

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U.S. ships cruise near Lebanon as Murphy goes to Damascus

BEIRUT (AP) — Three U.S. warships carrying combat marines cruised off the coast of Lebanon on Sunday as five more Americans wounded in last week's embassy attack, bomb, were evacuated for further medical treatment.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who had arrived in Beirut late last week to supervise the investigation into the Thursday attack, travelled to Damascus Sunday for talks with Syrian officials, said Carol Madison, spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

Mr. Murphy was "conducting consultations," she said, but gave no details.

The USS Shreveport, an amphibious transport ship, arrived off the Lebanese coast Saturday night, one American official said. Miss Madison said that the Shreveport was accompanied by two other American warships, but said she did not know their names.

The warships, she said, were carrying the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU), which is the same unit that was brought into Beirut last fall to replace the MAU that was attacked by a truck bomber last Oct. 23 that killed 240 Americans.

A MAU usually has about

1,800 marines. Miss Madison emphasised that the ships were staying outside of Lebanese waters and did not say what role they were expected to play here.

The USS Shreveport, which had been one of three U.S. vessels involved in Red Sea mine-clearing operations in recent weeks, was the first off Beirut's shore since mid-July, when the 10-man U.S. marine team that had been guarding the former American embassy compound in west Beirut left.

The departure of the marines more than two months ago coincided with the opening of a new U.S. embassy building in west Beirut and the ill-fated U.S. embassy "annex" in the suburb of Aukar east of Beirut. Security duties for both new embassy sites were assigned to the Lebanese army and locally employed guards.

American officials refused to discuss the Shreveport's assignment here, but the ship was believed to be taking part in the evacuation of Americans wounded in last week's embassy attack.

Three or four U.S. experts including Robert Oakley, head of the State Department's office of combat and terrorism, were continuing the inquiry into apparent

security lapses that allowed a suicide car bomber to get within a few metres of the annex's main entrance.

Mr. Murphy told reporters Friday the U.S. would not pull its troops out of Lebanon. President Amin Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami had assured him they would implement any security conclusions reached by the U.S. team, he added.

Four of the wounded in Thursday's attack were flown to Israel on Sunday by U.S. navy helicopter and taken to a hospital on the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, a team of military and explosives experts continued to examine the ruins of the bombed embassy for clues to the attack that took up to 12 lives, two of them American servicemen. At least 72 people were wounded in the blast, according to the chief Lebanese military investigator.

Twenty of the wounded were Americans. Temporary replacement workers began arriving in the capital, and one American official said a number of "communications and security" personnel were being brought in with equipment to replace that destroyed in the bombing.

Pakistan, Gambia appeal for Gulf peace

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan and Gambia Sunday appealed to Iran and Iraq to end the Gulf war. The appeal was contained in a joint communique issued at the end of a five-day visit to Pakistan by Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara, who heads an Islamic peace committee which has been trying to mediate in the Gulf war.

The communique said Mr. Jawara and Pakistan President Mohammad Zia ul Haq, who is also a member of the peace committee, deplored the "fratricidal conflict" between Iran and Iraq.

The two presidents "urgently appealed to the two belligerents to find a peaceful solution of their differences."

They also called for a political settlement in Afghanistan, saying this should include the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the return of more than four million Afghan refugees now living in Pakistan and Iran.

Mr. Zia and Mr. Jawara also demanded that Israel withdraw from occupied Arab territories, independence for Namibia, elimination of racial discrimination in South Africa, and increased international help for the drought-hit countries of Africa's Sahel region.

The incident occurred in the black township of Sebokeng, 50 kilometres south of Johannesburg, shortly after the burial of 22-year-old Joseph Sithole, who died during recent black protests against the white-minority rule.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said he had no information about force being used during the arrests but the eyewitnesses said scores of people had been injured.

The spokesman said police took



Lebanese demonstrators burn a wooden mock-up of an Israeli armoured personnel carrier during a demonstration in west Beirut Sunday to show solidarity with the resistance movement against the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon (AP wirephoto)

PLO to seek Soviet help to heal Arafat-Syria rift

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of four major factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are expected to leave for Moscow early next week to seek Soviet mediation to heal differences between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Syrian leadership and restore the unity of the PLO, a senior PLO official said here Sunday.

The official, who preferred to remain anonymous, told the Jordan Times that the four factions, which make up a Damascus-based "democratic alliance," have taken the decision to seek Soviet help

after Syrian-backed factions in the PLO rejected all reconciliation moves with Fatah, the mainstream commando movement and Mr. Arafat's power base within the PLO, and the "democratic alliance," which signed an organisational and political agreement last June in Algiers to settle all inter-Palestinian differences and restore the PLO's unity.

According to the Algerian and South Yemeni-mediated agreement, the "democratic alliance" and Fatah agreed to convene the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile and the PLO's highest legislative body, in September. However, the Syrian-backed factions, appar-

ently under pressure from the Syrian government, rejected the agreement and declared a boycott of the PNC if it was convened before Mr. Arafat steps down from the organisation's chairmanship.

Although South Yemen and Algeria succeeded in mediating disputes between Fatah and the "democratic alliance" over Mr. Arafat's controversial visit to Cairo and meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last December and producing the organisational and political agreement which was hammered out after intense talks in Aden, the South Yemeni capital, they have

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500 S. Africans arrested at funeral

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police said they arrested 500 blacks at a banned funeral Sunday and eyewitnesses reported policemen fired rubber bullets and tear gas at the mourners.

The incident occurred in the black township of Sebokeng, 50 kilometres south of Johannesburg, shortly after the burial of 22-year-old Joseph Sithole, who died during recent black protests against the white-minority rule.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said he had no information about force being used during the arrests but the eyewitnesses said scores of people had been injured.

The spokesman said police took

the action after the family of the dead youth went ahead with the funeral service despite a ban by a magistrate.

The eyewitnesses said hundreds of mourners fled in panic. Mr. Sithole was among at least 40 people to die as protests swept through black townships around Johannesburg over the past four weeks.

The protests coincided with the introduction of a new South African constitution giving a limited say in government to coloureds (mixed-race) people and Indians but continuing to exclude blacks, who form 73 per cent of the population.

The spokesman said several

other incidents occurred in nearby townships Sunday when police used tear gas to disperse protesting youths.

In Sharpeville two buses were hijacked and found later with smashed windows.

The police spokesman earlier reported that 130 blacks were arrested Saturday night for attending an illegal meeting.

He said the arrests were made at Bopheleng, south of Johannesburg, where people gathered in violation of a sweeping ban on indoor political meetings introduced in many parts of the country this month.

He would not say what the meeting was about.

Giscard d'Estaing attempts triumphant comeback

CLERMONT-FERRAND, France (R) — Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, relaxed and smiling, cast his vote Sunday in a parliamentary by-election which he hopes will allow him to make a triumphant return to political life.

A first-round win would give a dash of brilliance to Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's comeback more than three years after he was swept from the Elysee by Francois Mitterrand, and most political analysts believe he stands a good chance of getting enough votes to avoid a run-off next week.

"I hope that when the ballots are counted on Sunday, it will be a count of the heartbeats of France,"

the heartbeats of hope," the former president told reporters last week as he campaigned in his old constituency in central France.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, 58, has his political roots in the region. He began his bid for a comeback when Claude Wolff, a close confidant who has held the district since 1981, stepped down in favour of his mentor after winning a European Parliament seat last June.

The main challenge to the centre-right former president is from the extreme rightwing National Front, which hopes it can force Mr. Giscard d'Estaing into a run-off if it wins 10 per cent of the vote.

National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who won 9.2 per cent of the vote in the region in the European elections, has campaigned in the constituency to back the party's candidate, Jean-Claude Waterlot.

But even if the front does well, its results combined with those of other parties in the poll may still not prevent Mr. Giscard d'Estaing from passing the 50 per cent mark needed for a first-round win.

Divisions on the left have increased since the Communists pulled out of Mr. Mitterrand's socialist administration in July.

Socialist candidate Michele Andre admits she has little hope of passing the 21 per cent won locally

by her party in June. "In shipwrecks they always send the women and children first," she said last week.

The Communists, represented by Jean Nicolas, stand to make a dismal showing, their electoral score in the region having dropped from 13.4 per cent in 1978 to 6.6 per cent in June.

Commentators said Sunday the only element of suspense in the contest was Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's margin of victory.

"His election is guaranteed," the leftist daily Le Matin commented. "He is therefore not seeking a victory, but a triumph as the first judgement overruling his past defeat."

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Liberation, unity are Lebanon's top priorities, Gemayel says

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel said Saturday night Lebanon's top priority was to liberate the country from foreign military occupation but said this could not be done without internal unity.

In a 16-minute address on the eve of his second anniversary in office, Mr. Gemayel indicated Lebanon's feuding factions must end their almost 10-year-old civil war before the fight for liberation could begin.

More than two-thirds of the nation is occupied by foreign armies, most notably by Israeli forces in the South and Syrian forces in northern and eastern Lebanon.

Mr. Gemayel expressed confidence in efforts by the national unity government to secure Israel's withdrawal.

He also noted the "special interest" shown by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in "the process of saving Lebanon both on the security and political levels."

"Without winning the battle of unification there is no hope of achieving victory in the battle of liberation," he said in an address on state radio and television.

The 42-year-old president last addressed the nation on Feb. 5, when he told opposition leaders that "everything is negotiable" and announced a programme aimed at preventing all-out war in

the capital.

The Syrian-backed opposition immediately rejected his appeal and the following day militiamen seized west Beirut in a battle that defeated Mr. Gemayel's army and forced him to turn away from policies guided by the United States.

Although Lebanon's factional leaders later formed a "national unity" government and introduced a peace plan for Beirut last July, they have failed to extend peace to the hills and mountains surrounding the capital.

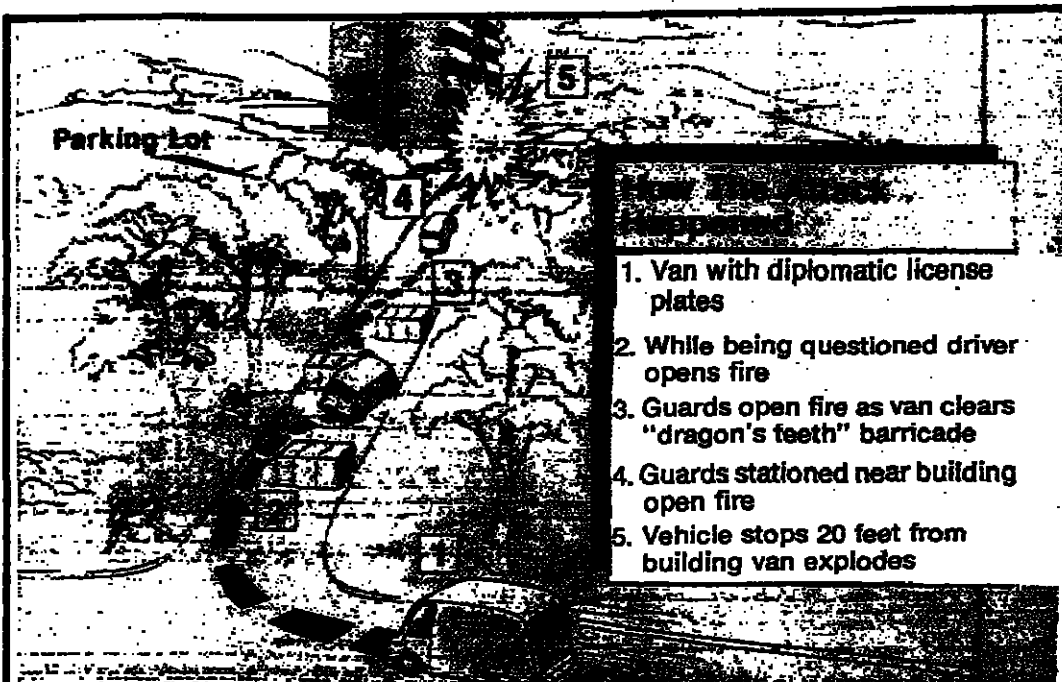
On Friday night, militiamen of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the army engaged in a nearly four-hour artillery battle outside Beirut. Fierce shelling included the east Beirut

suburb of Baabda, where Mr. Gemayel's presidential palace is located.

Mr. Gemayel warned that the Lebanese crisis threatened to become "greater than Lebanon" itself unless the sectarian fighting ended.

"How can a nation stand up while it is partitioned?" he asked. Mr. Gemayel expressed confidence in the cabinet's efforts during a series of conclaves this week, which are scheduled to resume on Monday, to resolve Muslim-Christian disagreements and restore government control throughout Lebanon.

"All this depends on our will and determination to save Lebanon," he said.



ANNEXE BOMBING — This graphic shows the route taken by the driver of a van which exploded at the U.S. embassy annexe in Beirut Thursday. The attack was the third time in 18 months the security system of an American installation in Beirut was breached with devastating effect (AP wirephoto)

Kabul protests over Iran's border violation

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan protested to Iran over a border violation by Iranian forces 10 days ago, the Afghan Radio reported Saturday.

The radio, monitored here, said Iranian charges of affairs in the Afghan capital Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and given a protest note about what it called interference of Iranian forces in the south western province of Nimroz on Sept. 12.

It gave no details of the incident, but said the protest note also pointed to a similar previous violation by the Iranians in the Islam Qala area of the western province of Herat.

Movement seen towards talks on Israeli pullout

By Nicolas B. Tatro
Associated Press

TEL AVIV — After long months of stalemate, there is significant movement toward a negotiated agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The assessment came after a Middle East tour by Brian Urquhart, the British U.N. undersecretary-general, completed a tour this week of Syria, Lebanon and Israel to sound out leaders on the possibility of negotiations.

Mr. Urquhart said on Israel Radio that he saw a "better climate" for serious talks after his trip but noted, "it is not an easy problem and will take a lot of sorting out."

Diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said the United Nations and possibly the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan could play key roles as intermediaries in negotiating a phased Israeli pullback.

The sources indicated that both Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's

government and the new Israeli government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres had softened their demands.

"I think there is a significant move forward," said one Western diplomat, adding that more detailed talks were expected next week when world leaders gather in New York for the U.N. General Assembly meeting.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's deputy premier and foreign minister, is scheduled to fly to New York on Sunday for talks with U.S. and U.N. officials. The talks were expected to focus on the Lebanon issue. A Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said the United Nations could help negotiate an agreement.

The sources said Syria signalled a readiness to support security arrangements for Israel's northern border as long as there was no "residual Israeli presence" after a withdrawal. They said Syria would not object to direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon on the security issue.

Syria also indicated for the first time that it would try to prevent Palestinian commando groups from moving south if Israel withdrew from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley where the armies of Syria and Israel face each other only a few hundred metres apart, the sources said.

According to a U.S. State Department official in Washington, there are about 50,000 Syrian troops and 10,000 to 12,000 Israelis in Lebanon.

Israel, which invaded Lebanon on June 6, 1982, to uproot Palestinian commandos, has insisted on guarantees that its northern border settlements would not be attacked again if Israeli troops pulled out.

The sources said Israel under Mr. Peres is ready to accept a greater role for U.N. peacekeeping forces and Lebanon Army, a militia which Israel has supplied and trained to replace its troops in Lebanon and prevent a resurgence of Palestinian commandos.

According to the sources, the outline of a withdrawal agreement was discussed with the Lebanese, Israeli and Syrian governments

and envisioned a phased Israeli withdrawal.

In the first stage the sources said Israeli troops would pull back from their current positions north of Sidon to a line stretching from the Mediterranean coast to the Syrian border in the east and roughly following the Zaharani River, 40 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

In later phases, the Israelis would withdraw to the international border leaving behind a mixed force of U.N. peacekeeping troops and Lebanese army regulars, the sources said.

The sources said a solution had to be found for the 2,000-man Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia, which might be incorporated into a territorial brigade commanded by the Lebanese regular army.

A 5,700-man U.N. peacekeeping force is stationed in South Lebanon. The U.N. security Council would have to approve any change of mandate to redeploy the 10-nation force made up of troops from Norway, Ireland, Ghana, Finland, Fiji, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Sweden and Senegal.

Bomb attacks cripple U.S. influence, policy

By Terry A. Anderson
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The group who carried out the third attack on Americans are succeeding in their apparent aim — to weaken U.S. influence and policy.

The suicidal attackers who operate under the name "Jihad Islam" — Islamic holy war — are believed by Western intelligence officials to be pro-Iranian, fundamentalist Shiite Muslims who believe that dying in a holy war takes them straight to paradise.

By showing again how vulnerable Americans are here, Jihad Islam further lessens Washington's influence.

Any embassy must be able to operate freely to carry out its purpose — putting U.S. policy into effect, gathering information on the country and dealing with officials and citizens. The Americans in Beirut cannot do so easily, and certainly will be even less able to after this third blow in 17 months.

U.S. officials cannot move here without heavy security precautions — armed guards and

convoy. They cannot even work in their own embassy secure from attack.

Few U.S. diplomats here now have seen much of Lebanon outside Beirut, and even in the capital their movement is limited.

"An American embassy is in a country to deal with the people of that country," said U.S. Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger after 17 Americans died in the April 1983 embassy bombing. "It's not a fortress. It's not a vault. We don't hide behind a steel door and peek out through peep holes. We have work to do."

Embassy security undoubtedly will be improved. But it cannot be made foolproof, and every improvement will cut the effectiveness of the diplomats being protected.

"We will carry out our previous promise not to allow a single American to remain on Lebanese soil," said the anonymous caller who claimed Thursday's attack for Jihad Islam.

They have proven they are willing to die to carry out that threat. That leaves the U.S. government some cruel choices — raise the embassy guard so high that officials will be completely ineffective, take a chance on sacrificing more American lives, or give up on Lebanon and leave.

Many of Lebanon's 1.5 million

Shi'ites, the nation's largest religious faction, are strongly influenced by Iran — both its fundamentalist interpretation of Islam and its virulent anti-Americanism.

Iranian religious leaders, frequently visit Lebanon. One Shi'ite faction, Hussein Musawi's "Islamic Amal," is said to be directly controlled from Tehran, and operates closely with Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon's Syrian-occupied Bekaa Valley.

Western intelligence sources claim Mr. Musawi himself has been deeply involved in Jihad Islam, and in a series of suicide attacks against the United States, Israel and France, as well as Lebanese targets, in the past 17 months.

The Lebanese Shi'ite leader denies the accusation, but praises the attacks.

"I salute this good act," he said after the death of 240 U.S. Marines and sailors in an October 1983 bombing. "Definitely there will be new operations... and I hope to participate."

Lebanon, with its constant wars, factional fighting, kidnappings and bombings, is a free-fire zone. The government is weak, the police completely ineffectual and the army divided in its loyalty among the government and the

major factions. The army units in west Beirut are openly sympathetic and supportive of the Shi'ite and Druze in the civil war.

Weapons and explosives are freely available, as are safe havens for planning and preparation. On a political level, it also is the place where the United States can be most easily hurt.

American Middle East policy is tied so closely to Israel that it is already difficult for the United States to influence Arab governments. In Lebanon, some leaders are suspicious of American motives and actions.

They believe that whatever the administration of President Ronald Reagan may say about supporting Lebanon, it has failed completely to pressure Israel into any concessions.

The Americans failed to stop the Israeli invasion or keep the Israelis out of west Beirut and have so far failed to get Israel to withdraw, they say.

The U.S. veto Sept. 6 of a proposed United Nations Security Council resolution criticising Israeli occupation caused great bitterness here, and at least one report by the Falangist "Voice of Lebanon" radio station claimed that the veto may have spurred Thursday's attack.

Numeiri says south will not be divided

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — President Jaafar Numeiri on Saturday bowed to rebel pressure and rolled back a decision to divide south Sudan into three regions.

The move followed reports of peace contacts between Mr. Numeiri's government and Sudanese rebels in the south.

Mr. Numeiri told a rally the aim of his 1983 decision to divide the south had been to "facilitate the administration of the region and to avoid the exclusive domination of certain tribes on government."

He also said that the division plan was originally worked out at the request of the southerners for a transitional period "until the citizens were absolutely sure" of its usefulness.

"Yet and inspite of all that, I hereby and in front of all of you, declare that the citizens of the south, are free after the expiry of

the transitional period, to return back to the one region that existed before," Mr. Numeiri said.

He said this would have to be expressed through constitutional bodies but did not elaborate on what exact constitutional procedure he had in mind.

The transitional division plan which was applied in May 1983 expires Dec. 4.

Mr. Numeiri's going back on his decision was expected to help reconciliation with the south which has been the scene of an active rebellion that included armed attacks on national and foreign installations such as the U.S. Chevron Oil Company and abduction of foreign workers.

Earlier this month, Mohammad Abdul Kader Omar, secretary-general of the ruling Sudanese Socialist Union, said a "dialogue has started with extremist elements in

the south who took up arms against the state." He gave no further details.

Mr. Numeiri made the remarks while addressing a popular rally marking the first anniversary of his introduction of Islamic Law to Sudan, another factor that helped inflame the rebellion against his regime in the south.

Delegations from Chad, Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia attended the five-day rally.

Former world heavy weight boxing champion Mohammad Ali Clay arrived here late Saturday to join the rally.

The south fought a 17-year-old civil war against the north that was ended by Mr. Numeiri in 1972 with a treaty that granted the south an autonomous, unified region.

Libya accuses Algeria of switching sides in Chad

BEIRUT (R) — Libya accused Algeria Sunday of switching sides in Chad and supporting President Hissene Habre instead of the Libyan-backed Chad rebels led by former President Goukouni Oueddei.

Libya said Algeria was behind what it said was the recognition by Chad of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, proclaimed by the Polisario Front in the Western Sahara.

The official Libyan News Agency JANA said Chad's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Gouara Lassou had announced his government's recognition of the Saharan Republic in a statement published Saturday

by the Algerian newspaper El Moudjahid and carried by the Algerian News Agency APS.

JANA, monitored here, said the Chadian move appeared to be "inspired by Algeria or in response to its desire."

The agency said Chad's action meant Algeria was now supporting President Hissene Habre of Chad instead of the rebel government of Libyan-backed former President Goukouni Oueddei.

It showed Algeria had switched its support to Mr. Habre's "rebel clique" in N'Djamena, "abandoning its former commitment to recognise the National Unity Government headed by Goukouni Oueddei," JANA said.

Habre poses conditions for peace talks

ALGIERS (AP) — Chad's French-backed President Hissene Habre will agree to peace talks with his enemies in the country's 20-year-old civil war only if they recognise him as chief of state, his foreign minister was quoted as saying Saturday.

Foreign Minister Guara Lassou told the official Algerian newspaper El Moudjahid that a government delegation is prepared to take part in a proposed peace conference in Brazzaville, capital of the Congo Republic, "as a government meeting its obligation."

Mr. Lassou left Algiers for New York Friday following two days of discussions with Algerian leaders

who have tried to act as mediators in the Chad conflict.

Mr. Lassou reiterated that the Habre government was given no prior warning of the French-Libyan agreement announced last week for a simultaneous withdrawal of French and Libyan troops from Chad.

"We are prepared to meet with our Chadian brothers assembled in an opposition movement, or in several opposition movements," Mr. Lassou said. He declared that the Habre government welcomed mediation efforts by Algeria and other African countries to bring the warring groups together round a conference table, but added:

"Let no one pretend that there are two Chadian governments. We are prepared to meet in Brazzaville as the government of Chad."

Libyan troops intervened in Chad in support of the rebel "Chad Government of National Unity" (GUNT) led by former President Goukouni Oueddei. Mr. Lassou said previous meetings among rival Chadian factions had all failed and were "a nightmare for the Chadian people."

He said if France and Libya have agreed secretly to replace their own troops in Chad, "we should be the first to be consulted."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 — Koran
17:40 — Cartoons
18:00 — Children Programme
18:25 — Documentary
19:20 — Programme Review
19:30 — First Aid Programme
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Arabic Series
21:30 — Local Comedy
22:15 — Arabic Series
23:00 — News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 — French Programme
19:00 — News in French
19:30 — News in Hebrew
20:30 — Foot-ups and Sleeps and Blunders
21:00 — Documentary: On the English
22:00 — News in English
22:15 — Love Boat

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 9560 KHz, SW

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — Newsdesk
08:00 — Morning Show
10:00 — News Summary
10:45 — Morning Show
11:00 — Pop Session
12:00 — News Summary
12:45 — Pop Session
13:00 — News Summary
13:45 — Pop Session
14:00 — News Bulletin
14:10 — Instruments
14:30 — Over a Cup of Tea
15:00 — Concert Hour
16:00 — News Summary
16:45 — Instruments
16:30 — Old Favorites
17:00 — Classical Show Case
17:30 — Pop Session
18:00 — News Summary
18:45 — Sports Round-up
19:30 — Arabiana Nights
19:00 — Newsdesk
19:30 — Date with a Star
20:00 — Evening Show
21:00 — News Summary
21:30 — News Summary
22:00 — News Summary
22:15 — Music USA
23:00 — News Summary
24:00 — News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 I Like It Here
06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Red
07:00 World News 07:05
07:30 Four Hours News Summary
07:30 Letterbox 07:45 In the Moment
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Baker's Hall
08:30 News 08:55 World News 09:00
09:30 Local Comedy
09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World
News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Nineteen
1984 10:45 Sports Round-up 10:50
World News 11:00 Britain: Press Review
11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books
11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Music News
12:15 Science Through the Looking
Glass 12:30 Countdown 12:40 World
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Australian senator leaves after fact-finding visit

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Australian Senator Robert Hill left Amman Sunday after a three-day private visit to Jordan. Senator Hill, who is one of southern Australia's representatives in the Australian parliament, is also a member of the foreign affairs committee. Before arriving in Jordan, Senator Hill visited the Australian peacekeeping force stationed in Egypt.

Actually I am on my way to attend a conference in the United Kingdom and I am using this opportunity to spend nine days in the Middle East, on a private fact-finding tour," Senator Hill said.

"Obviously we are very concerned with the Middle East, but it is not always easy in Australia to get the Arab perspective of Middle East problems in the terms which we would like, and therefore I am using this opportunity to feel the ground," Senator Hill added.

Regarding the nature of his talks with Jordanian officials, Senator Hill said that Australia has a growing interest in Jordan and is investigating the possibility of mutual increases in trade.

Senator Hill remarked that the first significant sale of wheat to Jordan from Australia is shortly due to be delivered and added other areas, such as the export of live sheep from Australia, are being investigated. "From a trade point of view it is obviously a growing relationship which we believe should be fostered and I think you will see more Australians in Jordan for that purpose in the future," said Senator Hill.

He went on to say that he held discussions with officials from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in which the financial problems faced by UNRWA were discussed in addition to the contributions made to the agency by the Australian government. During his visit Senator Hill also met with the director general of the Jordanian Foreign Affairs Department in which they discussed the Middle East peace process and possibilities of Australian contributions towards settlement talks.

Senator Hill also met with Minister of Information Laila Sharaif, several local journalists and members of the World Affairs Council in Jordan.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, inspects the new computer for traffic control at the Public Security Department. Sunday (Petra photo)

Hassan tours security department

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday called at the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with PSD Director Diab Yusef to discuss issues related to the department's activities.

Accompanied by Major General Yusef, the Prince made an inspection tour of the various divisions and inspected a computer recently installed to help carry out various tasks at the department. The Prince's tour covered the criminal investigation department,

the maintenance section and the Princess Basma Police Women's Training Department. The policewomen presented a sports performance before the Prince who was later briefed on their work and duties.

Badia police tour

Prince Hassan Saturday made a tour of badia police stations in northern Jordan accompanied by Maj.-Gen. Yusef and other officials. The tour in the north included 10 stations where officials and police directors spoke about the various duties of the badia police.

The new electronic computer installed at the Public Security Department is expected to help policemen in controlling traffic violations and other tasks, according to Lieutenant Colonel Fathi Al Humud who heads the computer division. In the coming year the department hopes to employ the computer in issuing licences for vehicles, he said.

Cabinet appoints new VTC board of directors

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has formed a new 10-member board of directors for the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC). The new board will be chaired by Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jabbar.

The cabinet held an ordinary session Sunday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat during which it approved the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) personnel statute and discussed a number of topics on its agenda.

Arab agricultural engineers prepare for conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The sixth conference of the Union of Arab Agricultural Engineers (UAAE) will open here Monday under royal patronage. At least 70 Arab agricultural experts and engineers are expected to attend the conference which will discuss problems related to agriculture in the Arab countries.

In preparation for the conference, the UAAE higher council held a meeting Sunday and re-elected Suleiman Arabiyat as president for a one-year term. The council also elected a secretary

general for the union's board members from different Arab countries.

A statement issued after Sunday's meeting appealed to the Sudanese government to reconsider an earlier decision for freezing the Sudanese agricultural association which was one of the UAAE's constituent members. The meeting also endorsed an agenda for Monday's conference.

Following the conference, the council will reconvene to continue studying a number of outstanding issues and to fix a date for holding its 14th session and to review a memo on the conditions of Arab agricultural engineers in the occupied Arab lands.

Cereal, legume and pistachio programmes planned

Jordan, Syria review agricultural cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syria is to supply Jordan with saplings of pistachio trees and will also train Jordanians on growing the tree through courses to be held on Syrian farms.

This was announced here Sunday by Ministry of Agriculture Under Secretary Salem Al Lawzi upon returning from a visit to Syria where he said he met with officials and attended meetings of the Arab Centre for the Study of Dry Regions and Arid Territories (ACSDRAT).

Agreement on cooperation in producing pistachios came in meetings with the Syrian minister of agriculture and his aides with whom Dr. Lawzi also discussed increasing bilateral exchange of agricultural products.

The ACSDRAT advisory committee meeting has decided to stop further experiments on developing improved types of cereals in countries included within the centre's programme in the light of the excellent results that occurred over the past three years in experimental stations. Dr. Lawzi said. He said that the meeting decided that the results should now be exploited by growing improved types in new areas in the participating countries.

New cereal types

The committee decided to grow the new types of cereals in 30 fields in Morocco, 20 in Syria and Algeria and 15 in Jordan, approved a programme for preparing lands in each of these countries for growing cereals and legumes, Dr. Lawzi added. He said that the committee also decided to build two experimental stations at Ramtha and Maru in Jordan.

The committee's week-long meeting has endorsed a programme for holding training courses in Syria for personnel from the participating countries on ways of preparing ground for cereal production, Dr. Lawzi added. He also said that committee members looked into the possibility of finding financiers for carrying out a project for processing seeds in Jordan, Algeria and Morocco in implementation of an ACSDRAT plan.

Wheat, barley

Also a number of working pap-



Salem Al Lawzi

ers were reviewed at the committee meeting dealing with types of wheat and barley grown in Arab countries and ways of increasing production. The paper, he said, were based on results of experiments conducted in Syria, Jordan and Algeria. Jordan, Syria, Algeria and Morocco, who are participating in the ACSDRAT project, attended the meeting along with delegates from Iraq and Libya.

Dr. Lawzi was accompanied by the director of the research and extension department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Nabil Katkhuda.

Jordanian women call for eradication of illiteracy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Women's Federation (JWF) Sunday organised a meeting at Ain Karim Charitable Society to mark the Arab Day for elimination of illiteracy.

Several JWF members spoke at the meeting underlining the importance of education for illiterate people, especially women. JWF President Haifa Al Bashir said in a

speech on the occasion that the literacy centres run by the Ministry of Education aim at offering the opportunity of learning to those who missed education when they were young.

Mrs. Bashir appealed to illiterate women in particular to join these centres and to encourage their children to acquire education.

Ramtha Municipality takes a tough stand against building violations

RAMTHA (J.T.) — Ramtha Municipality is to demolish seven homes which were built in violation of regulations and without licences, according to Ramtha Mayor Mohammad Bashabshe.

He said that the Irbid governor has approved the decision since such random building can cause great harm to the municipality's organisational plans.

PLO to seek Soviet help

(Continued from page 1)

failed so far to reconcile Mr. Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who expelled the PLO chairman in June 1983 after the Palestinian leader accused the Syrians of inciting and encouraging a rebellion in the ranks of Fateh.

South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad visited Damascus and Algiers last week in his mediation bid, but continued Syrian rejection of Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO blocked his efforts. In Algiers on Friday, Fateh and "democratic alliance" leaders announced that they have agreed to a proposal by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid that the planned PNC session be postponed for two weeks to give more time to joint Algerian and South Yemeni efforts to reconcile Syria and Mr. Arafat.

Syria, which is considered the Soviet Union's closest ally in the Middle East, enjoys extremely good relations with the Kremlin leadership and therefore a Soviet mediation effort might succeed in influencing the Syrians to strike a compromise with Mr. Arafat, political observers believe.

Meanwhile in Damascus, the "democratic alliance", which groups the Popular Front for the Lib-

eration of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party, Sunday issued a statement reiterating its commitment to the Aden-Algiers agreement and called on all PLO factions to join in a "comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue" without any preconditions.

The statement condemned "all efforts to impede the revival of the PLO institutions" and pledged to continue to cooperate with Algeria and South Yemen in efforts to heal the Syrian-Palestinian rift.

Wazir in Amman

Meanwhile, the deputy military commander of the PLO, Khalil Al Wazir, Sunday arrived in Amman from Tunis after taking part in what was described as an important meeting of the Central Committee of Fateh.

Mr. Wazir, popularly known as Abu Jihad, also led Fateh's delegation to the meeting in Algiers after which it was announced that the planned session of the PNC has been postponed for two weeks to give more time to the South Yemeni and Algerian mediation.

Resistance stages attack

(Continued from page 1)

were by native Lebanese. Witnesses said the boat flew a Lebanese flag and all five occupants were dressed in battle fatigues.

In another incident, Lebanese security sources said an Israeli jeep was hit by an RPG at the entrance to the southern village of Rihan, five kilometres northeast of Nabatiyyeh and all its occupants wounded.

An Israeli army spokesman in Tel Aviv said five soldiers were wounded when the patrol was attacked with RPG and automatic fire, but troops pursued and killed three commandos.

In a third attack, Lebanese security sources said a bomb exploded at the entrance to the village of Juwaya, 12 kilometres from the

southern city of Tyre, after an Israeli patrol had passed. There were no casualties.

It was the fifth attack on Israeli troops near Juwaya in a week. The commandos have used rockets, automatic fire and bombs, the security sources said.

On the Beirut coast, meanwhile, soldiers of the Lebanese army's sixth Brigade opened fire with mortars, anti-aircraft guns and tank cannons at several small boats offshore.

Beirut Radio said that the army opened fire after automatic weapons were fired from the boats toward beaches in the Ramlet Al Baida area of west Beirut. The radio described them as "military boats" but gave no other details. There were no casualties in the incident.

Islam has a subtle, unique approach to information

(Continued from page 5)

Arabs or Muslims are unable to reach any kind of consensus today. With the manufactured content of the media which is thrust upon them day in and day out and the informational messages that they are swallowing in their TV and radio diet as well as in the press, the media are instruments of foreign domination and the suppression of a life style consonant with the needs of foreign business and its local agents. Our children are now watching all kinds of children's cartoons from various countries with all kinds of values but their own. The media means press, radio, television, cinema and all related technologies. The hardware and the software mean money, power and influence. And the aspects of the problem as we explained are many. The religious and philosophical aspects are not to be isolated from the financial, political, cultural and other aspects. In the Surah of the Al-Humazah (the Slanderer) the connection between false news and their manipulation for financial interest was revealed. "Woe unto every slanderer, fault finder. Who amasses wealth in various forms thinking that his wealth will make him live for ever". The manipulation of news and information for any purpose other than truth-finding and the service of God is usually motivated by financial gain. Such manipulation stems from insecurity and the lack of trust in God's promise.

It follows that the concentration of the media in the hands of the few, be they governments, commercial firms, professional or managerial classes, is unethical because of the temptations of power and its corrupting influence on the media.

In the Muslim World today, while local organisations or unrepresentative governments may own the local media for profit or influence or both, the technologies and know-how are in the hands of the Godless cultures which export the theoretical use of the media with their products. The originators of media messages will not let the receiving audiences be free to choose and get out of their cultural, political and economic hold. Whatever the television in the "Third World" may try, while being constituted as it is, it cannot keep itself away or free from the power and domination of the developed world. Cultural domination goes hand in hand with political and economic domination. Finished products are exported to the developing countries that go with them and the social values of the exporting culture. The media in the developing countries become an extension of the media in the developed countries and also part and parcel of cultural, political classes which handle the media in the developing countries are thus active actors in the politics of dependence and tutelage. Such actors may not only deny the existence of an Islamic theory for public information, but may even go as far as to oppose it. For such a theory is conceived in freedom of freedom's sake and the liberty of man in God's grace. Opposition to an Islamic approach to public information and the media is not confined to the foes of such liberty as the compradors, the middle-men and the ruling circles which have a vested interest in the ongoing system, but the conditioned audiences which have come to perceive the other approaches in the East or West as the models to be emulated, if the Muslim world is to catch up.

The need for an alternative approach to information and the media, even though it is now admitted grudgingly by both West and East, is nevertheless viewed sceptically by the educated classes of the Muslim world which are inhibited by the secular values and cannot really see an alternative way out. The Islamic theory stems from the triangular concept where the third dimension makes all the difference.

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JVFA chairman calls for applied crop rotation plan, marketing studies to ease farmers' problems

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Farmers' Association (JVFA) has been in existence for 10 years this month, but its chairman of the board says that its objectives are far from being achieved. JVFA Chairman of the Board of Directors Adel Shamaileh said "the association still faces difficulties in helping the farmers handle matters connected with the production and marketing of their produce."

In a recent interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Shamaileh said that the JVFA lacks funds needed to extend a helping hand to the farmers. At present the JVFA is in possession of JD 14,000 that came from farmers' subscriptions and donations, but this falls far short of required sums that would enable the association solve the farmers' problems, he said.

According to Mr. Shamaileh, the Jordan Valley, which provides Jordanians with 70 per cent of their needs of vegetables and fruit, should be made to produce more by applying the "rotation of crops method" and by introducing "agricultural patterns". These two factors, if applied, could easily bring about a balance between supply and demand of agricultural products and ensure a growth in output, he said.

Fertilisers, loans

The JVFA at present sells fertilisers and seeds to farmers at prices far less than those in the local markets and offers them long term loans with much less interest than could be obtained elsewhere with the purpose of helping farmers continue their work and to encourage them to produce more, Mr. Shamaileh said. Also, the JVFA plays a part as mediator between the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and the farmers to settle any disputes which may arise, he added.

Mr. Shamaileh voiced appreciation to the government for establishing an agricultural company with a JD 10 million capital which, he said, will devote its work to purchasing and marketing Jordan Valley agricultural produce. But, he said, this company does not mean that the current agricultural policies should be maintained.

The Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) has suggested certain types of "agricultural patterns" that could be adopted in the Jordan Valley to regulate and increase production, and until such patterns are applied the produce will remain fluctuating and the profits uncertain, Mr. Shamaileh said.

He said that Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Al Bashir has displayed deep interest in applying agricultural patterns "and we hope that practical steps can be taken soon in this direction." In Mr. Shamaileh's view, the basic agricultural patterns should be preceded by a study on the quantities of agricultural products required for the local market, another study on the quantities of crops that can be exported, and a third study on the quantities that can be processed or stored on a regular basis.

Factory breakdown

Asked on the reasons for the disruption in the work of the tomato paste factory in the Jordan Valley region, Mr. Shamaileh said that due to poor rainfall in the last winter season, the tomatoes were much in demand in the local market. The farmers, instead of selling their produce to the government as was agreed sold it directly in the market and obtained very high returns and profits that offset previous years' losses. Later, the factory started receiving farmers' tomato crops and later broke down, but the farmers were instructed to send their crops to the paste factory in Amman, which they did, Mr. Shamaileh said.



A farmer in the Jordan Valley inspects his citrus grove

tructed to send their crops to the paste factory in Amman, which they did, Mr. Shamaileh said.

Referring to government help for the JVFA, Mr. Shamaileh said that the government offered the association loans and financial grants that enabled it to carry out part of its task. "But I call on the government to make a reassessment of the JVFA's programmes and to study its needs because such a study would reveal the real size of assistance that the association needs in order to shoulder its various responsibilities, Mr. Shamaileh said.

The JVFA now groups 4,760 members and the funds they raise are quite inadequate for meeting the requirements of the association, Mr. Shamaileh pointed out. He said that in his policy statement to parliament, Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat promised to give due care and support for the agricultural sector and to the JVFA, Mr. Shamaileh said. "We hope that help will come and it will boost Jordan's agricultural sector, and thus the association can help the government solve farmers' problems, Mr. Shamaileh said."

Marketing policies

Referring to the projected Agricultural Marketing Company, Mr. Shamaileh said this company will be entrusted with purchasing farmers' produce at prevailing prices. This company cannot pay more than the market prices to the farmers since, like other companies, it wants to make a profit. Mr. Shamaileh pointed out. "But once an agricultural pattern system is applied, outputs can be assessed in advance and reasonable prices for them fixed," he added.

Mr. Shamaileh urged the government to follow a system by which crops from the West Bank and the East Bank would not be marketed simultaneously in Jordan. He said that flooding the market with crops from both banks is bound to bring a loss to farmers on both sides of the Jordan River. Jordan Valley crops ripen earlier and are ready for the market one month before those of the West Bank and therefore there must not be any problem in marketing both crops at different times, Mr. Shamaileh said.

However, if the West Bank produce can be delayed a bit more it would yield better profit, and this coordination is also necessary for marketing the crops both here and in Arab Gulf states.

Israel to ask for U.S. role

(Continued from page 1)

icial said on Friday that Israel was seeking direct contacts with Syria to negotiate a troop disengagement in eastern Lebanon as a prelude to the withdrawal of the Israeli army. Israeli and Syrian troops are still facing each other in

east Lebanon's strategic Bekaa Valley.

If Mr. Shamir does ask Mr. Shnit for Washington's assistance in negotiating with Syria and the United States agrees, it would bring the United States back into the centre of Middle East diplomacy.

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Meeting halfway

THERE ARE signs these days that the previously charged atmosphere surrounding international debt and development questions may be slowly moving into a new phase based more on cooperation and mutual understanding. The International Monetary Fund's policy-setting Interim Committee has just announced that it proposes to devote its spring meeting next year to a review of Third World debt, global trade and investments in developing countries. At the same time, the United States treasury secretary has declared his country's willingness to discuss the global debt question with the Third World.

But everything has a price, of course, and the price that the IMF and the United States are asking in return for their agreement to engage the Third World in a debt dialogue is that the IMF slightly reduce its lending limits to developing countries, and that a global debt dialogue be held within the institutional framework of the IMF and the World Bank — institutions in which the United States has a disproportionately large say, in line with its being the major financial contributor to them both.

Our feeling is that the Third World should not play games by arguing too much about whether these are appropriate venues for talks on debt, capital investment or trade. The objective of the developing countries is to strike a greater balance between the western states' commercial interest in having bank loans repaid by the Third World, and the Third World's desire to take advantage of the present upturn in the world economy to institute lasting, structural changes that would help prod development for many years to come. Wherever they hold the talks the Third World has asked for, the Americans and their western industrialised partners will maintain the same positions. Their willingness to engage the Third World in a comprehensive dialogue is a good sign, which the Third World should respond to in kind.

The announcement that Venezuela has followed Mexico in rescheduling the bulk of its medium- and long-term commercial bank credits, without an agreement with the IMF, reminds us that bilateral and regional discussions will always be more productive than gigantic global gatherings. It is also another strong sign that the western commercial banks are keenly interested in meeting the debtor countries halfway on the debt issue.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Reprisal does not pay

URGED BY the U.S. Democratic presidential candidate to carry out an act of reprisal against those who perpetrated the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, the Reagan administration is likely to fall in an unenviable dilemma.

If it opts for retaliation and revenge, Washington will be facing great troubles in the Middle East region and probably elsewhere in the world though the ruling Republican party could gain public support that can further boost President Reagan's chances for success. But if it opts to listen to the U.S. ambassador to Syria who has been cautioning the American administration against rash actions and calling on Washington to reconsider its Middle East policies, then it will be taking a very sensible decision.

Of course the Israelis will not help the Americans to take a reasonable decision with regard to this issue and would continue to impede any moves by Washington to try to adopt a more balanced policy in the region. The U.S. ambassador in Damascus has attacked the U.S. veto at the Security Council on the Lebanese issue, called on Israel to abide by the Geneva conventions with regard to the treatment of civilians under its rule and urged Washington to adopt a more moderate policy.

Reprisals will not pay off and violence is bound to encourage counter violence and the cycle never ends. Only reasonable options and balanced policies can bear a better fruit.

Al Dustour: Gunboat diplomacy again?

REPORTS ABOUT U.S. warships approaching the Lebanese coast indicate that the Americans are about to launch a retaliatory strike to take revenge for the attack on their embassy in Beirut on Thursday. This gunboat diplomacy can never bear constructive results and is bound to fail. The United States should instead transmit sincere signs of its determination to bring peace to Lebanon and the whole Middle East region because reprisal would no doubt cause more violence and more bloodshed.

The United States should learn from past lessons and experiences in Lebanon and should desist from committing rash actions that are bound to backfire and harm its own interests in the Arab World. Washington should reshuffle its Middle East policies and draw up plans that can ensure stability in the region and establish real peace instead of repeating its old and futile that proved to be failure.

By sending warships and committing retaliatory action, the United States could be risking the last chance for safeguarding its interests in the Arab countries and would be adding fuel to the fire in the region encouraging terrorist actions everywhere. It goes without saying that the root cause for U.S. failure so far is that Washington continues to condone Israel's aggression and, the Zionists' policies in the occupied Arab territories. We sincerely hope that Washington will opt for reason and act wisely.

Sawt Al Shaab: Some Arabs support Iran

SOME ARAB countries which claim they strive to liberate occupied Arab lands and stand firm in the face of the nation's enemies, are in fact colluding with Iran and helping it to launch aggression on the Arab countries.

Iran's president, who has recently concluded a tour of these countries returned home to announce that some Arab countries in fact support Iran's stand and its policies in the Gulf. These Arab countries which support Iran are in fact helping the United States and Israel to carry out their designs in the Gulf region. Helping Iran in its war with Iraq is following the same course of the Americans and the Zionists who have been supplying the Iranian regime with weapons and other forms of aid to enable them to launch more attacks on the Arab Nation.

The Arab countries who continue to raise slogans in defence of Arab interests and claim to be confronting the nation's enemies are indeed joining forces with these enemies and helping to strengthen the hand of the Iranian aggressors. It is a treachery unprecedented in Arab history.

'Peace onslaught' on Jordan comes at a hard time

By Tareq Masarweh

THE "PEACE ONSLAUGHT" on Jordan has begun. It started from three main directions:

— through a policy statement by Shimon Peres in which he presented his coalition government to the Knesset;

— through a U.S. Congress decision not to sell Jordan any weapons until that country joins in the peace process.

— through statements by Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali, who said his country will not resume negotiations with Israel on Palestinian Autonomy Rule unless Jordan and the Palestinians join the talks.

Jordan has anticipated this kind of vicious and dangerous

onslaught and thought it would come amidst a deteriorating Arab situation. Its leaders had tried to prepare the Arab Nation for it by digging "defensive trenches" and by maintaining that a solution for the Middle East problem can come through an international peace conference in which all concerned parties involved in the issue and international powers should take part.

Jordan had been insisting that the Camp David formula and the United States unilateral role in handling the issue are to be ruled out because Washington has lost forever its capacity as mediator, guarantor or partner in the issue. Washington is dis-

qualified because it had placed its Middle East policies entirely in Israel's hands and adopted hostile attitudes towards the Arabs and their legitimate interests and rights.

Though Jordan has earlier moved to prepare defensive trenches and fortifications in the face of the coming "peace onslaught", the time has come now for a more serious effort by the Jordanians to try to mobilise their local, regional and international forces and to enlist the aid of all who can help in warding off this looming danger.

The peace onslaught seems to be more dangerous to Jordan than expected since now Jordan has no real support

from the Arab World, given the present divisions among the various states. Had the situation been similar to one that prevailed in the Arab World at the time of the Baghdad summit, Jordan would be alright, but since the Arabs are weak and divided, Jordan will not be able to confront the onslaught as it did in the case of the Camp David agreement. We have to admit that Jordan's strength largely depends on that of the Arab states and when it rejected Camp David, it did depend on Arab support. No doubt, however, Jordan will confront the peace onslaught, but in the absence of joint Arab action, Jordan will be vulnerable to great harm, and then no statements of sympathy

from the rest of the other Arab countries will do any good. If the Zionist conspiracy is executed, then the Middle East region will be in a more dangerous situation than in the aftermath of the Camp David agreement, and more serious than it is at the present time.

Should this campaign on Jordan by the enemies of the Arab Nation succeed, the whole Middle East region will indeed face a very serious situation and a grim future. If the attack succeeds, the enemy will have completed the encirclement of the Arab countries after it had succeeded in paralyzing Iraq's power, isolated Egypt from the Arab World, occupied half of Lebanon and

pinned down Syrian forces there. If the campaign on Jordan proved to be successful, in the end, Israel would have undoubtedly ensured for itself total and unquestionable domination of all of Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights. Israel would then have supreme control over the destinies of Jordan and Lebanon and would thus offer the "American Cowboy" the opportunity to link NATO's southern flank with the Arabian Sea and the heart of Africa, and to transform the Arab World into another Philippine, Botswana, Swaziland or South Africa, and so the chance for an Arab resurgence and national renaissance would be lost for ever.

The new Israeli government: How Europe sees it

By Robert Swan

THE FORMATION of the new Israeli government of "national unity" gives no grounds whatsoever for optimism that Israel intends to reverse its expansionist policy and undertake serious negotiations with the Arab World as a whole — still less with the Palestinians. In the bargaining which preceded the formation of the Peres administration it was the "dovish" wing of the Labour Party which gave way to the Labour Party's own "hawks" and to the Likud on the two key issues — settlement policy and the basis for any negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians.

The appointment of Gen. Ariel Sharon to the Ministry of Trade and Industry where he will be able to exert direct influence on decisions affecting the settlements finally disposes of the slender hope that a new Israeli government might consider serious discussions. Nevertheless, there is a crumb of comfort in one respect. The Israeli elections and the subsequent bargaining leading up to the formation of the new government have altered significantly the way in which Western Europe perceives Israel.

The electoral campaign itself provided some salutary shocks. Most European capitals (and Washington) hoped for a clear cut Labour majority which, it was claimed, would open the way to a freeze on settlements in that part of Palestine occupied in 1967. This freeze, optimists claimed, would lead to meaningful negotiations in which even the PLO might participate, perhaps as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. It was even confidently predicted that Mr. Abba Eban, Europe's favourite Israeli politician, would become foreign minister with such a programme as his objective.

As the campaign developed it became clear that Labour wanted to raise as the main issue not the search for peace and a settlement to give even a modicum of justice to the Palestinians but Israel's parlous economic situation. It was the Likud which counter-attacked

by saying that a Labour government would be "soft" on the West Bank.

The attempt to ban the Progressive List for Peace from contesting the elections severely dented Israel's carefully cultivated "democratic" image. Gen. Matti Peled and Uri Avnery, the two most prominent Jewish supporters of the list, are well known in Western Europe and, of course, particularly in Western Europe Jewish circles. The clumsy attempt to disqualify them only attracted more attention to their campaign. The important psychological breakthrough was that the leader of the list was an Arab lawyer, Muhammad Miari, beyond suspicion as a Palestinian patriot. The fact that an Israeli reserve general who played a prominent military role as recently as 1967 should agree to serve under him was an impressive argument against those who have been trotting out for so long in Europe the stale argument that those who criticise Israel and its policies are anti-semites. On the contrary, it helps to make it possible for Jews in Europe to repudiate the idea that they have to support Israel even in its most expansionist and aggressive policies.

The results of the election gave no comfort at all to the pro-Israel propagandists who had been claiming that the Likud's aggressive and expansionist policies would be rejected by the Israeli electorate. On the contrary, Western commentators underlined the increased vote for right-wing religious groups and, above all, the election to the Knesset of the Rabbi Kahane.

In terms of policy Rabbi Kahane does not go that much farther than the Tzohar which got four seats in the Knesset and polled particularly well among the military. Inevitably, however, it was Rabbi Kahane, with his consciously dramatic style and appearance and his Brooklyn accent, who attracted media attention. His out-and-out racism and his soft-reiterated claim that many other Knesset members secretly shared his views if not his language (a claim apparently

substantiated by the contacts he has subsequently made there) gave a completely new idea of the kind of Jewish colonists now settling in the West Bank.

The serious press analysed results in more detail, stressing the polarisation in Israeli society. It is the young and the less well-educated who support the hard-line right. The "moderates" are apparently a declining force and it is getting harder and harder for pro-Zionist lobbyists to sell the image of the typical Israeli as being a peaceful, cultivated intellectual who only wants to be left in peace.

Several commentators mentioned the increase in the Arabs bothering to vote despite the call for abstention by one group. The Arabs were far the majority of voters not only for the Progressive List for Peace, with its two seats but also for the Communist-led Hadash which won six seats. Nevertheless, there was some disappointment that the Arab position was not strengthened by an agreement to share "surplus" votes under the proportional representation system which would have given at least one more seat to groups supporting Arab rights.

The lengthy manoeuvring that preceded the formation of the government of "national unity" did further damage to

Israel's image.

The "religious" parties were shown up for what they have increasingly become — not the guardians of Jewish religious values but the protectors of sectional interests. The concessions which both Labour and the Likud were willing to make to secure the participation of these groups cast a sinister light on the nature of Israeli society.

Furthermore, it became more and more apparent that the majority of Labour members were quite happy to yield to Likud pressure and drop any idea of a freeze on settlements. If there is a reduction in the number of new settlements provocatively announced by the Likud government just before the elections it will obviously be in the context of economy measures, and not because there is any willingness to put an end to the settlements which Lord Caradon has called "signposts to destruction".

The crucial question is what effect the downgrading of Israel's image in Western Europe will have on Western European policy. The chances of a full-scale initiative, as frequently suggested by Arab sources, remain dim. In fairness to Western Europe it must be said that though they missed a golden opportunity by not responding to the Fez Declaration, they now have some excuse because of the cracks in

Arab unity that have appeared since Fez.

There would be little point in putting forward an initiative that was not going to get a welcome from the Arab World, whatever minor reservations there might be.

What then can Europe do? The answer may lie in the possibility of pressure on the United States. It is true that the American political parties and in particular the Democrats — have behaved disgracefully in pursuit of the Zionist vote (and, just as important, Zionist money). The Israeli election, however, had its impact in influential American circles. The Washington Post, for example wrote:

"There is no denying, however, that from the point of view of American self-interest, the Israeli elections were a deep disappointment."

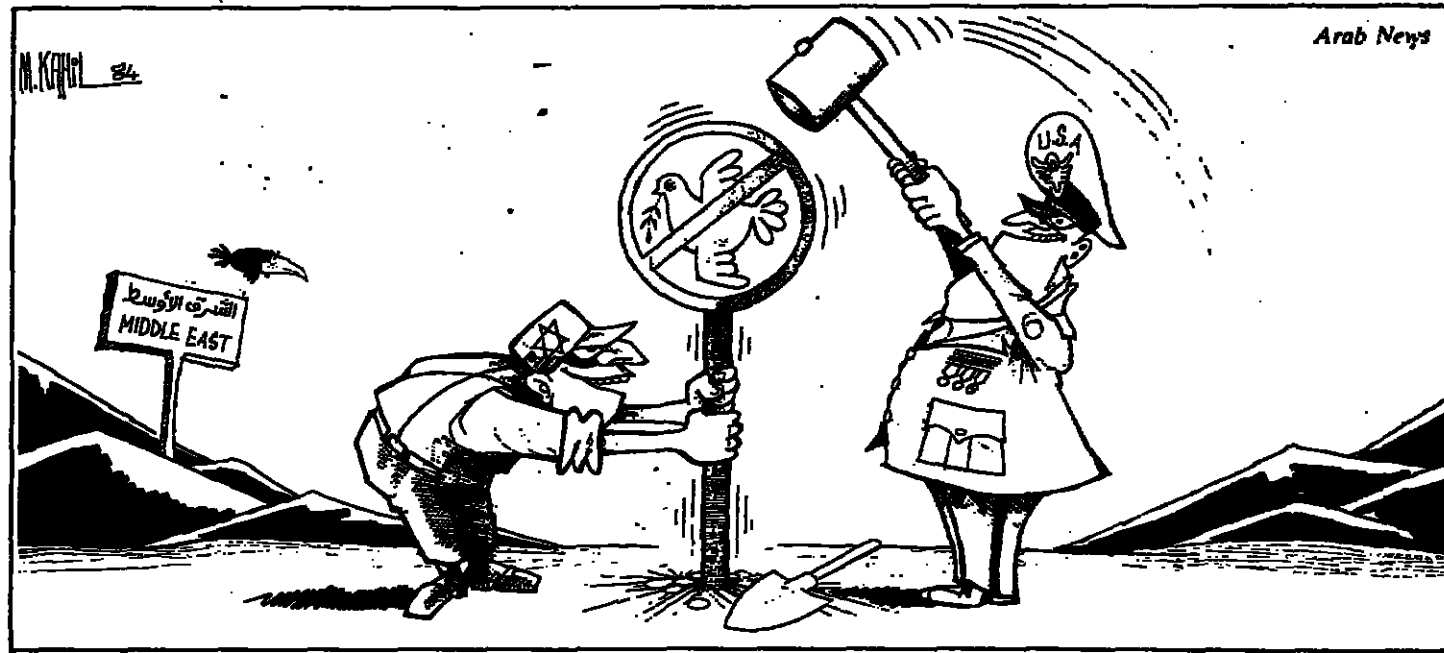
"Most Americans who care for Israel, and many who don't believe Likud's annexationist policy on the West Bank is driving Israel to the point where, to stay Jewish, it will become increasingly anti-democratic. The Likud course has constricted efforts to find common U.S.-Israeli strategic ground, and compromised the American claim to run an independent Middle East policy."

"There remains the continuing and troubling spectacle of America being a party to Israel's denial of political rights

to the Palestinians. One does not have to exaggerate the disaster that may befall U.S. interests in order to oppose the policy that Likud has been diligently pursuing for the last seven years. The policy is wrong. U.S. acquiescence is wrong. The policy cannot be justified — or ignored."

The Washington Post points out quite shrewdly that the Israelis will use the excuse that what they call Palestinian "intimidation and disarray" and Jordanian "caution" impede negotiations. However, if Jordan and Arab Gulf countries continue to take a fairly tough line towards the United States to the extent of threatening to buy Soviet equipment and break up diplomatic contacts a new Reagan administration might use financial leverage to force Israel to negotiate.

I can't pretend to be optimistic that such a scenario will materialise but there is a flicker of hope in the way all three Western European Security Council members (Britain, France, Holland) voted on Sept. 6 for the Lebanese motion condemning Israel's activities in the South, thereby isolating the United States, which then cast its veto. The best way to change American policy is to criticise it. Western Europe has no excuse for illusions about Israel's new government and should make its position very clear.



Communist-Socialist alliance in France dissolving

The Communist-Socialist alliance in France is dissolving after 13 years, not least because the Communists have suffered a sharp drop in support since taking part in government. But Paul Bettis reports that breaking away may not bring back the voters.

PARIS — The French Communists have just hammered the final nail into the coffin of the unhappy, often stormy Communist-Socialist alliance by announcing that they no longer see themselves as part of the parliamentary majority. Although they have yet to cross formally to the opposition benches, this will without doubt happen at the end of the year, when the party votes against the government's 1985 austerity budget.

This will mark the end of a 13-year period, in which Socialists and Communists linked up in a Union of the left to topple the right and secure the reins of power. It will leave the Socialists to rule alone, while the Communists strive to regain support among the working class and try to reverse their recent alarming electoral decline.

The depth of feeling and bitterness the divorce is causing soon emerged in the open. Mr. Lionel Jospin, the first secretary of the Socialist party, put the blame squarely on the Communists. He accused them of first pulling out of the coalition government this

summer and now out of the parliamentary majority to resolve their own internal crisis.

Communist participation in government had increased the internal tensions over the historic role and future of the party. "Withdrawing the Communist ministers from the government meant putting an end to the ferment, the agitation, and the contradictions," Mr. Jospin suggested, adding: "In a country like ours, a party which does not debate is a party which no longer breathes..."

President Francois Mitterrand said in an interview that he expected the Communists to go into opposition quickly. In any case, he added, the Union of the Left had been dead since 1977 — the year of the first split in the alliance which led to the defeat of the left in the 1978 legislative elections.

The Communists blame the divorce on the Socialist government's economic austerity policies and the breach in the left-wing coalition programme of 1981. After a three-month silence, Mr. George Marchais, the Communist secretary general, said during the party's annual

popular rally — the Fete de l'Humanite — that the Communists "had no responsibility for the running of the country", that the new budget "will be a bad one", and that the party was now launching "a large gathering of popular forces in the country."

After hesitating for several months, the Communists have decided to go back to basics and revert to their traditional and familiar role of a working class opposition party. The reformists (or renovateurs) in the party have been silenced. The old Stalinist guard has reasserted its control.

Mr. Marchais, under whose leadership the party has sunk in 12 years from more than 20 per cent of the popular vote to 11.28 per cent in last June's European elections, has managed to salvage his political career by forcing through the separation with the Socialists. He now seems certain to be re-elected as secretary general at the party's 25th Congress next February. Three months ago he was regarded as on his way out.

As the Socialists changed their economic policy, replacing expansion with austerity and announcing large restructurings in key industrial sectors, Mr. Marchais found himself following an increasingly ambiguous political line with one foot in government and the other outside. By doing the

splits, the party ended up confusing its own rank-and-file as well as increasingly infuriating its Socialist partners.

Mr. Marchais, who is at his best in a clear cut opposition role, and several other top party members decided immediately after the European elections that the time had come to pull out. The idea was to withdraw on the budget debate, but President Mitterrand accelerated the timetable by appointing Mr. Laurent Fabius to replace Mr. Pierre Mauroy as prime minister in July.

This caught the Communists by surprise but did not bring about any changes in their fundamental strategy. Internally, the strategy was to silence the reformist voices and close ranks around the old guard.

Externally, the strategy was to prepare the new opposition line criticising the government's economic policies, trying to win back its popular base, attracting the votes of discontented members of other parties, and hardening the position of the pro-Communist CGT union.

The first salvoes were fired in August against the government's approach to the troubles of the motor industry. The party's main economic spokesman, Mr. Philippe Herzog, then attacked broad industrial policy, claiming that res-

tructuring cannot be achieved simply by dismissing thousands of workers.

The attack was subsequently broadened to cover Mr. Fabius, of whom the Communists have always been deeply suspicious.

Mr. Fabius, in his first major television appearance since becoming prime minister, said he considered the Communists still to be members of the majority. He pointed out that they had so far not voted against the new government.

The Communists immediately reacted by stating that they no longer regarded themselves as belonging to the majority. During the Fete de l'Humanite on Sept. 8 and 9, they buried the Union of the Left, for good it seems.

By reverting to a hard opposition line, the Communists have resolved some of their short-term internal problems but not their fundamental difficulties. The move has certainly restored the influence, increasingly questioned, of the party leadership. It has also lifted the confusion within the CGT union. But it is by no means certain that it will ultimately help the party halt its steady electoral decline.

The hesitation in calling for all-out confrontation over the government's economic and industrial policies appears to reflect

the concern of the Communist leadership that the rank-and-file may not respond. In the Citroen labour dispute, the CGT has been remarkably cautious, and the car plants are all working relatively smoothly despite Citroen's controversial redundancies.

Most striking is the sense of fatigue in the working population towards the wave of industrial restructurings, ranging from the motor to the coal industries. This sentiment will inevitably weigh heavily against the Communist party's efforts to rally around itself what Mr. Marchais called "a great gathering of popular forces" — a sort of "union of the base" to replace the Union of the Left.

The current changes in the party's policies towards the new government and its relationship in general with the Socialists are essentially an internal French affair. Nonetheless it could also relate more broadly to the freeze in East-West relations.

The Soviet Union certainly favoured the departure of the Communists from the French government. But perhaps it is only a coincidence that the French Communists have decided to sharpen their attack on the Socialists just as a number of East European political leaders are postponing visits to West Germany — Financial Times news feature.

Islam has a subtle, unique approach to information

Following is the second part of a paper presented by prominent Jordanian writer, film-maker and journalist Ibrahim Abu Nab to The Third International Seminar on Islamic Thought held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia July 26-31, 1984.

The Islamic approach

A TRULY Islamic approach to information and the media has to be of course informed by a different concept of man and society and their relationships. With the added cosmic and spiritual dimension of the Omniscent, the whole thing becomes quite different. The role of the media and its place in human life fall into proper perspective. The superiority of such an approach shows itself in the debates between the various schools of the media in East and West and can better be illustrated by such debates.

For while all agree on the nature and power of the media and their uses, some started out by thinking that the role of the media was to reflect social consensus than to make it. Others thought the opposite was true. But during the last decade or so, the media have been viewed no longer as the institutions which merely reflect consensus, but as the institutions which produced it. This belief, a very dangerous one for the freedom of man and his intrinsic value, represented a radical swing to the left by both East and West as well as the "Third World". It represented a newly strengthened faith in the power of the media over man and that people's minds can be made for them by other people without any intervention by God. The media in fact became God, and as put in the words of an American media theoretician, the medium became the message. If so, God would have been proved dead!

Happily, this was proved wrong; and the power of the media was contested by the empirical media researchers who discovered that the mass media have only a very limited influence on people. It was argued that people manipulated the media in as much as the media tried to manipulate them. Audiences were discovered to be active rather than passive receivers and that they bring to their media a variety of needs of their own which influence their responses to the media. One may say that such researchers and schools of thought have come to see the past of the Islamic light.

The cognitive dissonance theory postulated that people seek to minimise the psychological discomfort of incompatible values and beliefs thrust upon them through a psychological mechanism called "filtering" which allows the receiver of a media message to take only what he needs. Such filtering is of course reinforced by one's own culture and the strength and depth of the values which he holds to be true. De-Islamisation has greatly affected and weakened the Muslims to the bedlam syndrome.

The Islamic view of the intrinsic value of man, however, was upheld by scientific research. Society was found out by empirical researchers also as not a mass, as the mass-communication theorists would have it. A repudiation of the mass society thesis on which the presumption of media power had rested, was led by the discovery that the society was not composed of isolated atomic individuals, but was rather a honeycomb of small groups bound by a rich web of personal ties and dependencies. Stable group pre-

sures, it was discovered, helped to shield the individual from manufactured content.

This is all very important, because it makes one think of an Islamic approach to psychology and sociology in addition to the approach to information. Man is not only as Freud saw him, an animal motivated mainly by sexual drives, nor as Marx saw him in need mainly of filling his stomach, not even as the clergy sees him in need of something bigger than himself to worship. The view of man as a fornicator or bread-winner is a reductionist view, no less reductionist than of him as a worshipper or an atomic self-seeking creature.

(1) Man the communicator

Man is also a communicator, and this is where our Islamic theory starts. For Arrahman, the All Compassion who, taught the Koran, created also man and taught him communication. Man is not therefore only a receiver of informational messages as the authorities in the East and West would have him and as the authorities in the Muslim World are treating him, but he is also a sender of messages, an originator and creator. The created, we must notice, is also a creator. And without this in nature, there can be no recreation. The voice I am creating is also a creator on his own.

One must stop and think why God, when he created man, taught him also how to communicate. Your God, the Lord said, "Call on Me and I shall respond". God, the Omniscent who knows all the inner depths and thoughts of man had put himself in the position of waiting to hear from man before he would respond to him. Therefore the so-called freedom of expression is not a man-made political concept only. It is in Islam much deeper than that and part and parcel of the original freedom which man secured when he took it upon himself to carry the Amanah, the trust of consciousness from God.

It is told in the Koran that when God, Allah, created heavens and the earth, the familiar and the not so familiar creatures, he offered the Amanah to them all including heavens and the earth and mountains. All of them declined to take it, except man who "verily was unfair and ignorant". This perception of man and God in the Koran is basic, because it implies an unlimited freedom of choice for man almost equal to that of God's. For man was not offered the Amanah alone, nor was it imposed upon him but he took it. In God's view, man was unfair to himself and to God to make such thing, because by doing so he had shown a great arrogance and ignorance of his limitations so much so as to make himself equal unto God who, has no equal unto Him.

Allah, according to the Koran, may forgive all trespasses except that of trespassing on Him by having equals unto Him. All sins are forgivable except heathenism which is the one cardinal sin which man committed by, taking the Amanah, obviously at God's displeasure. On second thoughts, this perhaps is where Islam and Christianity meet on the idea of the original sin in spite of the fact that this view may have escaped Muslim theologians and was also lost on unitarian Christians.

The fact remains however that man entered into a relationship of struggle with God and himself from the word go and that reconciliation can only come by the surrender of man's ego to God's will and admitting His supremacy.

Such a surrender or acceptance is termed Islam in Arabic which is exactly what the Christians do when they accept God and get themselves saved from the original sin.

(2) Communication a road to God

Communication plays a major role in the act of progress from sin to grace and from ignorance to enlightenment as well as from the state of unhappiness and the struggle to the state of happiness and reconciliation. It was perhaps in man that he should meet with God and recognise Him just as it was in the corpules of blood to recognise an outer space virus upon contact with it. But this seemingly curious relationship between man and God had to go through the process of mutual communication in which both God and man communicate to each other and each acting as a sender and receiver of informational messages.

This God-man relationship is unique. According to the Koran, no other relationship is elevated on a par with it, not even with the angels. Mutual communication is the instrument of elevation. For when God created Adam he taught him all the names of things, that is to say the language. When God showed the Angels what he had shown man and asked them to speak and call the names, they said, "Praise Thee! We know not except what Thou hast taught us". The Angels were not perhaps created as communicators and originators of information like man. They had a different role to play, as guardians against Satan, conveyors of messages, accountants, soul retrievers and servants to His Throne.

The God-man relationship makes all the difference in an Islamic theory of information. For man is not to be a receiver only of informational messages and a passive object of the media, but an originator of information and a sender also. Man is in fact a package of Godly information made in the best of forms. His communication with God, while expressed in words, takes also the form of indigenous learning while his communication with society takes the form of exogenous learning. Wordly reality which is reflected upon our minds is exogenous knowledge and can never acquire the status of wisdom without the fear of God which is indigenous and reflects God's will on the human conscience. Man does not know only what he is taught by man and society but he is born cognitive with an Amanah, which is a piece of God's mind.

Now to theorise about public information and how it should be according to Islam, one must think about the concept of Islam itself, built upon a unique concept of truth-finding for deliverance and fulfillment. The relativity of truth which is used by many as a way of escape from God and doing one's own as it suits him, is no argument against truth. For truth will always be relative and will never be absolute on earth until man meets his creator, returns the Amanah back in good faith and enters into the state of eternal bliss. Truth-finding has been made the way of all progress. From one relative

truth to the other, the road is taken toward the absolute truth which is God. But from one relative truth, without the sincerity of purpose, back away to the other, the road is taken away from the God and the absolute truth to the state of spiritual corrosion and disintegration. This applies to individuals as well as to groups and communities.

(3) The media in a Muslim society

Clearly the media in a Muslim society should not be in the hands of a dominating class, be it managerial, professional, clerical, elitist or a working class. It will not be in the hands of government either, but in the hands of the people for the people with the object of living and progressing in God's grace. Without this object, the media will lose their anchor and become a monster. The media shall not be an idol to be worshipped or listened to instead of God, nor should they be allowed to become the arm of unrepresentative government nor an arena where class wars are fought and won. The media should be vehicles for the expression of people's real needs and spiritual values as well as for conveying true information. There should be no illusion about the power of the media or their limitations.

Therefore they must not be viewed as reflectors of consensus only or as makers of it but both. As a creation of man, the media are also creators and propagators of attitudes and mental conditions as well as of political and economic realities which can augment or reduce wars and struggle.

Such kind of media cannot exist in a vacuum or in a society other than a true Muslim society. This is because any theory of information for the media must be informed by the kind of society it serves. A Muslim society is not bounded by race or geography but is a faith-community or an Ummah. The media should therefore be geared to this type of society and its needs. Without Islam as a faith, the Arabic peoples and tribes could not have become a nation bound together by a faith and ideology. Islamic media should therefore play the role of reflecting as well as of making consensus among the Muslims.

If so, some may ask: how are the Islamic media to be organised in the modern electronic age where they need managers and professionals as well as institutions. If the media are not to be in the hands of unrepresentative governments or dominating classes, then who is to run them and support them?

And the question must be raised again why is this necessary for Islamic media? This is necessary, because the questions of truth, freedom of choice, freedom of expression and authenticity are, contrary to what many think, of paramount importance in Islam. Beside the question of the freedom of expression and the right of man to dissent and form oppositional framework, the question of truth is crucial.

(4) Information in Muslim society

Islam, to use the media jargon, is a great message of significance, built upon a unique concept of truth-finding for deliverance and fulfillment. The relativity of truth which is used by many as a way of escape from God and doing one's own as it suits him, is no argument against truth. For truth will always be relative and will never be absolute on earth until man meets his creator, returns the Amanah back in good faith and enters into the state of eternal bliss. Truth-finding has been made the way of all progress. From one relative

truth to the other, the road is taken toward the absolute truth which is God. But from one relative truth, without the sincerity of purpose, back away to the other, the road is taken away from the God and the absolute truth to the state of spiritual corrosion and disintegration. This applies to individuals as well as to groups and communities.

The values of truth, justice, love, sincerity and freedom are dealt with scientifically in Islam and they are all part of God's attributes and are also identical like being many names for the same thing. For if freedom is the space within which an object moves in time, then truth is an attribute of direction, while love and sincerity are the power drive. God the absolute is beyond space and time; therefore His is absolute truth, love and Compassion. But he is also relative. The all Compassion (Arrahman) is also Compassionate (Raheem). Without God, the values of truth, love, justice and freedom become meaningless. Sincerity, love and freedom are necessary elements for progress toward truth the relative and the absolute. The association between Arrahman, the All Compassion, and the teaching of communication to man must not be lost on us as we try to discover the role and meaning of communication in an Islamic society.

These concepts, translated into the media, must help distinguish a true film, for instance from a false one. Granted the picture is not the real object and there is a difference for instance between the Palestinian problem and a documentary film about it. The film is not the problem nor the problem is the film. Both are different entities which look like each other. Only with truth, sincerity of purpose of the film-maker and his professionalism, which is in itself a part of the degree of the sincerity and seriousness, does a film reflect truth. A phony film about the same problem would seem to lack all or some of the aforementioned values.

Again, when God taught man the use of the word-medium for communication, the medium was true to life, whereby the word "apple" meant an apple and not a computer. The perversion of the medium came with the removal of sincerity and truth from it, whereby words meant something else other than their original meanings and films had manufactured contents and significations.

The banishment of God's will from the media came in the form of banishing sincerity and love and the introduction of the so-called doctoring of information. This is all not new to Islamic thinking although the media is obviously new and problematic. The Islamic tradition is very rich in thought and methodology about learning, knowledge and public information. The preoccupation of Muslim scholars with the verification of facts and truth may have been excessive as shown in the old books of endless ascriptions and reservations before a statement is finally made.

The scholars differentiated between facts and opinion, "al-Khabar wa al-insha", as they did between ordinary exchange of news and the information services which are in government pay. One Muslim scholar did not only require the (Osoos) intelligent people, to be learned, objective, just and God-fearing as judges, but he cautioned the (uli al-amr) rulers, against informers and their man-

Part II

ipulation of intelligence. He urged that such people, besides having to be qualified men of integrity, that they must be provided for adequately in order that they may not succumb to corruption as a result of financial need.

Because of the nature and role of the media in the Islamic society which are equal and similar to the role of the madrasahs (universities) in Islamic education, the organisation of the media and their institutions in the Muslim world will have to be on similar lines to Islamic education. This is to say that media institutions must be supported by trust funds without ever being subjected to commercialism of any sort. Non-profit organisations for training the media people as well as running the media of production and display. This may be a step further from the public broadcasting concept in the U.S. which is supported by state funds. The state can establish trust funds for such institutions but with no strings attached, which may in any way pervert the media from its proper function.

(5) Organisation

Media institutions must be accessible to all individuals in the Ummah who find the need or ability to express opinion. This may sound chaotic and inapplicable in the present Muslim world or anywhere else for that matter. It may be branded as utopian, but it is as utopian as the system of Islamic education was when scholars and students alike were free of government control commanding their learning and integrity with the highest respect by the people and the rulers. In a free truly Islamic society where the media is non-commercial and not catering for manufactured content, there will be no incentive for exhibitionists to display their egos and for various persuaders to persuade audiences of anything which is not true or authentic. As instruments for the expression of spiritual and cultural needs, the media will be thus Islamic, serving God's will for communication and man's needs for freedom and progress in a Godly direction.

This is the only Islamic media that one can think of where no signification is given to the insignificant and no news is suppressed and where the media are integrated into the life of the people. Any other media system can be said to be harmful and counterproductive. The road of the media is one of two ways, either toward God and true progress or toward regression and the degradation of man. The Islamic media is an instrument of a culture based on the love of truth, justice and freedom. If such a system were to be started today in any one Islamic country, of course there will be problems. The quality of the programmes may suddenly drop and instead of watching Dallas or Magnum on television, people might start to watch local drama and traditional folklore. But that is what is exactly wanted. No sooner this takes place than the programming will start to improve with the media coming closer to reflecting social consensus and preserving the indigenous culture and the true identity of the people.

(c) Afterthoughts

One should not wonder why the Continued on page 3

Flanda Habib's Corner

Why not consult us?

THE MINISTRY of Education has recently taken an important decision which will affect the future of our children. From now on, students who finish their preparatory "I'dadi" stage shall pass an exam whereby 60 per cent of the male students and 70 per cent of the female students will go on with their secondary studies while the rest will be transferred to technical schools.

The aim of this new law is to control the academic section and to form a group of technically trained people for the purpose of guaranteeing Jordanian manpower needs. This system guarantees that 40 per cent of the male students and 30 per cent of the females will automatically be directed to the technical field. All this is good and the decisions might be beneficial for the country in the long run.

However... shouldn't such important decisions which are bound to affect every Jordanian family be taken after informative campaigns have been launched so as not to take the people by surprise? Furthermore, and since we have a parliament, we might as well give them work and as such this law could have been discussed and implemented by our representatives there.

The country is indeed saturated with university graduates, and we have a manpower shortage in the technical field but let's start from the very beginning. Let us make public awareness campaigns, let us inform our citizens how many new doctors and engineers are flooding the market every year and about the risk of unemployment they might face.

Let us teach the public what these technical studies consist of because unfortunately they are not looked at kindly here. Let us substantiate these facts by giving figures and by giving people estimations of future salaries. Maybe after all that we would be able to convince reluctant parents who might then influence their children to choose those careers, because this new regulation will affect students of 14 years of age. It can also happen that some of the 40 per cent students chosen for technical studies has no liking for these studies. This law does not leave him any choice except emigration.

We can foresee that approximately 30,000 students will be affected by this law: Are there adequate enough technical colleges to absorb them? Instead of taking us by surprise with laws that concern us directly, why can't we be consulted? Other countries make referendums, let us start by applying them here.

British monarch after North America horses

By Larry Thorson
Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II departs Monday on a 22-day trip to pay tribute to the Canadians who rejected the American revolution 200 years ago and to visit Kentucky and Wyoming for a look at her favourite animal, the horse. Her husband, Prince Philip, will accompany the queen through the Canadian visit from the Atlantic province of New Brunswick as far as Ontario. He returns to London on Oct. 5, while the monarch continues on to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and then to the United States on Oct. 7.

Buckingham Palace calls the queen's eight days in Kentucky and Wyoming a private visit, and the queen is to be shielded from news media there except for a handful of public events including her presentation of the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup at Keeneland racecourse on Oct. 11.

Her press secretary, Michael Shea, said in a note to news organisations: "I would be grateful if the queen's privacy could be respected for the rest of the visit."

Her hosts in Kentucky are Mr. and Mrs. William Farish of Lexington, the heartland of American stud farms. Mr. Farish is vice chairman of the U.S. Jockey Club and a leading American horse breeder, and he met the queen in 1973 when he played in the Queen's Cup Polo Tourney in Britain.

In Sheridan county, Wyoming, the queen will stay for three days at the family ranch home of Lady Porchester, the wealthy rancher's daughter who married Lord Porchester, the manager of the queen's large and successful racing stables.

Lady Porchester told the Associated Press the queen's horses have won "well over one million pounds" (about two million dollars) since her coronation in 1952.

In Kentucky she will see some of her mares that she and Lady Porchester sent to be mated with American stallions. In Wyoming, the queen, an avid horsewoman who rides daily when she is away from the city, will have an opportunity for open-range riding before departing for home on Oct. 15.

In Canada, the 58-year-old monarch and Prince Philip, 63, have a busy ceremonial schedule focused on the 200th anniversary of settlement in Ontario and the 150th year since the founding of Toronto.

A member of the 48-nation Commonwealth, Canada recognises the queen as its titular head of state. Her ancestor King George III lost the southern part of the British North American colonies in the U.S. war of independence, but thousands of his subjects — the "loyalists" of early U.S. history — rejected independence and went to Canada.

"A lot of them went to New Brunswick and Ontario and that's why the queen is going there," said Peter Bliss, information officer at Ontario House, the provincial office in London.

He said 1784 was recognised as "the social beginnings of Ontario society," and thus this year had become a bicentennial with celebrations that included a tall ships extravaganza at Toronto.

The royal couple arrive Monday afternoon at Moncton in New Brunswick. On Tuesday they attend a bicentennial service at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton.

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John Henry wins Belmont race

NEW YORK (R) — Favourite John Henry won the \$625,250 Belmont Turf Classic horse race run over a mile and a half here Saturday.

Win was second and Majesty's Prince finished third.

The winning time was two minutes 25.5 seconds.

In winning his 38th race in 82 starts, John Henry earned his owner, 70-year-old Sam Rubin, \$375,150.

The win raised his record career earnings to \$5.8 million.

The 5-year-old All Along, making her first start since last November, was fourth through the first mile.

Rounding the far turn after 10 furlongs, the French mare, ridden by Irish Jockey Walter Swinburn, passed Majesty's Prince on the outside to take over third place.

By the top of the stretch, All Along had opened up a one and a half length lead over Majesty's Prince and was within three lengths of John Henry, ridden by Chris McCarron.

But then All Along, owned by French art dealer Daniel Wildenstein, was overtaken by Majesty's Prince with about 200 yards to go and finished fourth.

It marked an end to All Along's four-race winning streak of last fall when, within a space of six weeks, the bay mare won major grass classics in three different countries — the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, the Rothman's International in Toronto, the Turf

Classic at Aqueduct in New York and the Washington D.C. International at Laurel, Maryland.

"We had a good start," Swinburn said of his mount, who drew the rail position and was second in the wagering at 9-5. "I was happy with my position all the way around, and everything felt fine until I pushed the button and there was nothing there."

Win, a New York-bred colt drew to within a length of the leader at the eight-furlong mark. And he was only a half-length behind John Henry as the closely-bunched six-horse field entered the stretch, with Majesty's Prince, under Vince Bracciale Jr., four lengths behind.

Less than 100 yards from the post, Win drew to within a neck of John Henry — the eventual margin of victory. But the gelding withstood Win's challenge to the end.

Mini sports city planned for Jubeiha

AMMAN (J.T.) — A mini sports city is to be established at Jubeiha west of here for the benefit of districts west of Amman, according to a decision taken at a meeting here chaired by Assistant Governor of Amman Khaled Murad.

The project to be set up on a 30-dunum land at Jubeiha will be managed by the municipalities of Jubeiha, Tla'a Al Ali and Sweileh which had formed a joint services council to supervise various public services and sports activities. The mayors of the three towns attended the meeting which decided that the existing Jubeiha sports field be up-graded as a first step and different sports events be held on it. Later other sports facilities will be added, a spokesman for the meeting said.

Franco-Belgian triumph in 24-hour motorcycle race

LE CASTELLET, France (R) — Patrick de Radigues of Belgium and French team-mate Jean-Pierre Oudin, prospering after ill luck befell the two Works Honda favourites, triumphed for Suzuki in a rain-swept 24-hour motorcycle race here Sunday.

De Radigues and Oudin took the 'Bol d'Or' endurance event, covering some 3,000 kilometres in a race which started inauspiciously when French Motorcycling Federation President Jean Lesueur was knocked over at the start.

Lesueur, suffering concussion and multiple injuries which included a broken ankle, was taken by helicopter to a hospital in nearby Toulon where he underwent an operation. A hospital spokesman said his life was not in danger.

The two French-manned

Honda squads seized control of the race from the start, but less than three hours into the contest the leaders sacrificed all hope of victory when Guy Bertin skidded on a patch of oil.

The luckless Bertin had to wheel his machine back to the pits and he and team-mates Roger Roche, third in the 500-cc World Championship, and Dominique Sarron had no chance of getting back into the hunt.

Sarron and Roche had set a blistering pace before Bertin's mishap.

After a two-hour interruption, de Radigues and Oudin went on to win by six laps from a Suzuki piloted by Henk van den Mark and two fellow Dutch riders. The winners completed 517 laps of the 5.8-km circuit at an average speed of 159.116 kph.

Walker claims 4th Fifth Avenue Mile

NEW YORK (R) — John Walker of New Zealand broke away from a packed field to win the fourth annual Fifth Avenue Mile Saturday in the relatively slow time of 3:53.62.

Walker kicked for home in the final fifth of the straight race, outpacing Pierre Deleze of Switzerland who finished second in 3:54.86, and Jose Abascal of Spain, third in 3:55.14.

Said Walker: "I thought of it as a fair mile and this will give me a bit of confidence for the New York marathon."

Fourth was American Richie Harris in 3:55.81, followed by compatriots Jim Spivey in fifth who clocked 3:57.71, and Chuck Aragon in sixth in 3:58.53.

Last year's winner Steve Scott of the U.S. was well down the order among the 11 contestants finishing in a time of 4:04.75.

Romina's Maricica Puica won the women's mile, edging Britain's Wendy Sly with a tremendous burst in the final quarter after Sly had led from the start.

Puica, who won the gold medal in the controversial 3,000 metre race against American Mary Decker and Briton Zola Budd at the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, finished with a time of 4:24.35.

Sly, also second to the Romanian in the Los Angeles race in which Decker fell, clocked 4:25.96.

Christina Boxer of Britain was third in 4:28.13. In fourth was Diana Richburg of the U.S. in 4:30.65.

Pre-race favourite Ruth Wysocki of Los Angeles could manage only fifth with 4:30.80. The 1982 winner, Debbie Scott of Canada, was sixth in 4:31.25.

Cram, Zhu breeze to victory in Shanghai

BEIJING (R) — Britain's Steve Cram cruised to an easy victory in the 800 metres at an international athletics meet in Shanghai Saturday night, while China's world high jump champion Zhu Jianhua recovered his lost form.

Cram, the 1500 metres Olympic silver medalist, virtually duplicated his performance last week at Nanjing by clocking an unchallenged 800 metres time of one

minute 46.41 seconds, the New China News Agency (NCNA) reported.

His nearest rival, China's Huang Luotao, was six seconds behind.

Zhu, 21, performing before a home crowd, recovered some of his pre-Olympic form with a jump of 2.35 metres, but failed on two attempts to set a world record of 2.40 metres.

Navratilova continues winning streak

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — Martina Navratilova continued her winning streak Saturday, defeating Elise Bergén 6-4, 6-3 in the quarterfinals of the Lynda Carter-Maybelline tennis classic here.

Friday night, Navratilova, 27, completed a rain-delayed 6-1, 6-2 victory over Melissa Brown, 16, setting a new winning streak at 56 matches. She went on to beat Rose Fairbank 6-1, 6-2 and stretch her mark to 57.

In the first match of the quarterfinals Saturday at the Bonaventure Racquet Club, Bonnie Gadusek beat Kathy Rinaldi 6-3, 6-2, while Michelle Torres slammed her way to a 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Terry Phelps. Barbara Potter and Sharon Welsh defeated the doubles team of Ann and Elizabeth Minter 6-2, 6-3, while Fairbank and Kim Shaefer beat Mary Lou Piatek and Wendy White 6-3, 7-5. Wendy Turnbull defeated Katherine Tanvier 6-0, 6-1.

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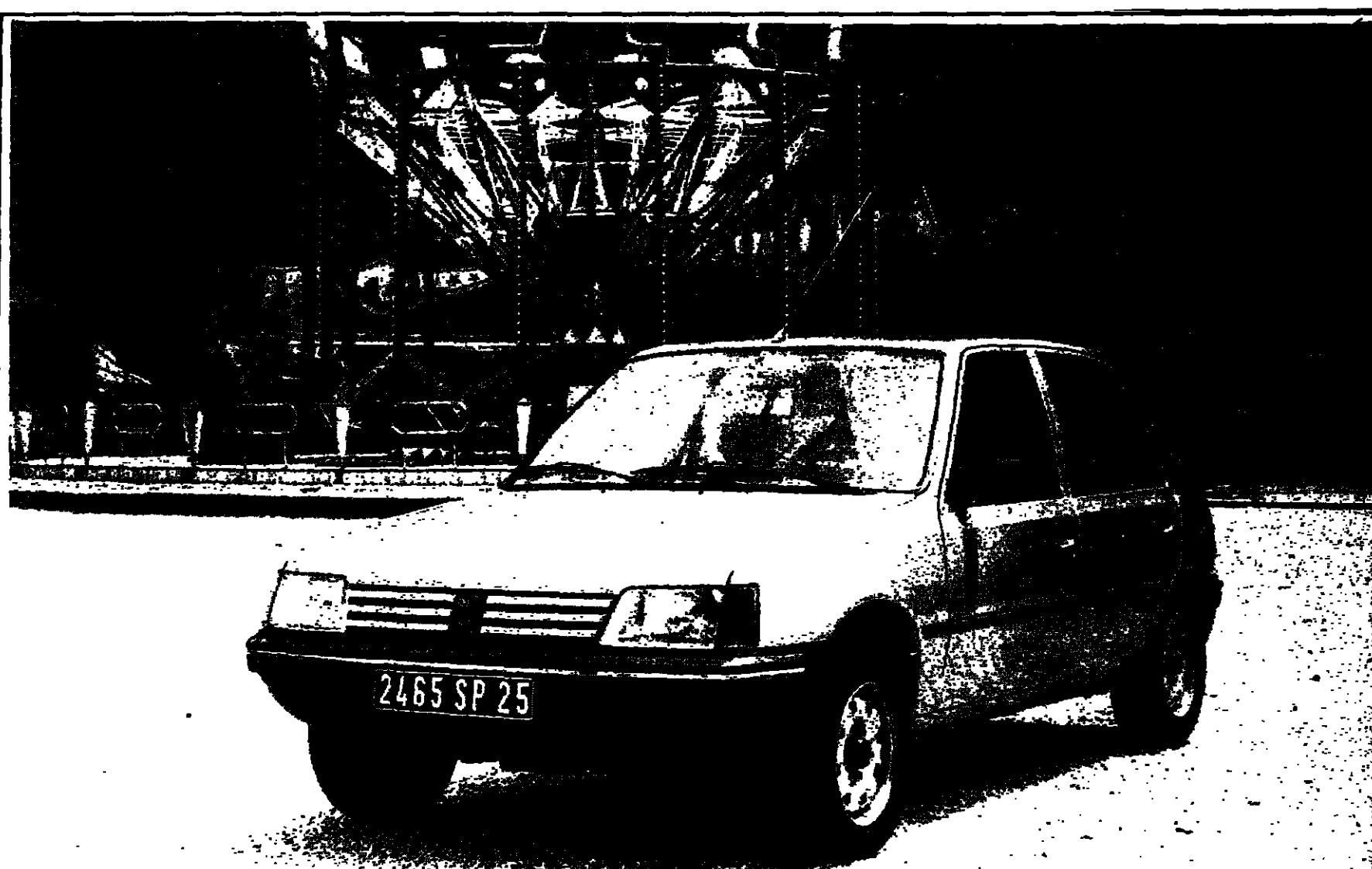
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Rockefeller chastises U.S. for stinginess

WASHINGTON (AP) — Multimillionaire David Rockefeller on Saturday chastised the United States for trimming its foreign aid programme to the world's poorest countries.

Mr. Rockefeller, speaking to a convention of American businessmen, said it was vital that the United States and other industrialised countries substantially increase aid to combat human suffering and solve the international debt problem.

"In the longer term," said Mr. Rockefeller, who retired three years ago as chief executive officer of Chase Manhattan Bank, "it is quite simply a matter of life and death."

He cited statistics showing severe economic problems faced by the Third World and said he was "amazed by the difficulty" of convincing the U.S. Congress of the importance of keeping the rest of the world economically healthy.

"The numbers in themselves cannot begin to convey the severe human suffering and social and political tensions that lie behind them," he said.

U.S. efforts have declined markedly since the Marshall plan for European recovery after World War II, Mr. Rockefeller said.

"Foreign assistance between 1948 and 1952 averaged a full 15 per cent of overall U.S. federal spending," he said. "Today the figure is 1.7 per cent."

Measured as a percentage of gross national product, the United States once led the world in its generosity, but has slipped to 16th place, he added.

Mr. Rockefeller told reporters after his speech that he was heartened that President Ronald Reagan's administration had increased its interest in foreign aid after taking a hostile approach at the beginning of its term in 1981.

But, he said, the administration was stressing aid to individual countries with moderate problems and cutting back on aid to the world's poorest nations, especially through the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA).

At U.S. insistence, he noted, the IDA's fund for the five-year period that began this year is \$9 billion, 25 per cent less than the fund for the previous period.

If inflation is taken into account, IDA has 40 per cent less to work with, he said.

"A number of industrialised nations are now proposing a supplementary fund to help make up this gap for the most needy — such as those countries devastated by drought in Africa — but this, too, is being opposed by the U.S.," Mr. Rockefeller said.

Israel considers tough economic measures

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is considering a package of tough economic measures Sunday, including a \$1 billion budget cut, new taxes and higher food prices which could send Israel's 400 per cent inflation to an all time high.

The measures could slash the country's welfare programme, increase taxes on luxury items and trim the defence budget, Israeli newspapers reported.

Israel's worsening economy is its number one problem, and the new bipartisan government has been under pressure to enact stringent belt-tightening measures. Prime Minister Shimon Peres is expected to seek up to \$1 billion in additional economic aid from the United States during a visit to Washington in October.

The government's long-range plan is to freeze salaries and prices in an effort to sharply reduce inflation within the next 12 months. In the short run, the reduction of

subsidies and other economic measures could increase the rate of inflation.

The government and trade union leaders agreed to a one-time eight to 10 per cent surcharge on September salaries last week. A rate of the surcharge on salaries for the following three months has yet to be decided.

The surcharge is to accompany increases averaging 10 per cent in the prices of fuel, basic foods and transport as government subsidies are cut. A 1.5 to two per cent tax on cars, luxury and second apartments and industrial equipment is contemplated.

Mr. Yisrael Kessar, secretary-general of the Histadrut trade union federation which represents most of the workers, warned that any attempt to freeze wages would meet stiff Histadrut resistance if salaried workers had to bear the main economic burden.

IMF agrees to review debt crisis but reduces borrowing ceiling

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has bowed to Third World demands for a review of the debt crisis next spring but shaved the maximum amount which financially-struggling nations can borrow.

The IMF's policy-making interim committee announced Saturday night that it would devote its spring meeting to Third World debt problems, concerns over depleted foreign investment in poor nations and international trade.

"The debt problem has not gone away, (the current approach) can be improved, can be put in a more medium-term framework," IMF Managing Director Jacques De Larosiere said of the new initiative.

But citing "good progress" in containing the debt crisis, interim committee chairman Mr. Willy De Clercq said that access to IMF loans would be slightly cut back.

"It must be interpreted as a sign of the improved economic climate," he said.

Mr. De Larosiere insisted at a press conference that the present "case-by-case" approach to the crisis, in which the problems of individual nations were dealt with separately, was not being abandoned in favour of more radical solutions.

But he added: "It can be improved as time passes. The debtor-creditor relationship can be put in a more medium-term framework."

Developing nations have been pressing for a political summit to discuss ways to boost the transfer of wealth from rich to poor countries.

But Mr. De Larosiere's remarks appeared to rule out such talks, stressing instead a review in the spring to try to avoid a confrontation with the Third World.

Mr. De Clercq, who is also Belgium's finance minister, said the loan cutback was no more than a "modest downward revision" designed to show that the previous levels, enlarged in 1981, were always meant to be temporary.

The existing access of borrowing countries to IMF loans is set at a maximum annual limit of 102 per cent of a nation's quota, or financial pledge, to the fund.

For especially hard-pressed nations, the annual limit is 125 per cent.

But from the start of next year, these levels would stand at 95 and 115 per cent respectively while three-year limits would also be shaved, to 280 and 345 per cent compared with 306 and 375 per cent at present.

Ministers from rich and poor nations meeting in the World Bank's development committee were expected to endorse a similar proposal to review the debt crisis, Mr. De Clercq said.

The development committee was proposed by Britain and Canada as the best forum for a review of the problem.

But critics said that by involving the interim committee, the powerful industrial nations led by the United States were ensuring they could control the outcome.

Confidential paper

Meanwhile the IMF said Saturday it was of the utmost importance to take credible action to cut budget deficits that are holding United States interest rates at high levels.

In a confidential paper on the world economic outlook obtained by Reuters, the IMF said rapid U.S. economic expansion coupled with high deficits had kept interest rates high and raised question

marks over whether balanced economic growth could be maintained.

"Credible action to reduce the U.S. fiscal deficit is of the utmost importance," the paper said. The IMF said that the current pattern of world exchange rates and international balance of payments could not be sustained.

The paper came after a week of turmoil in international currency markets, with the dollar rising to new heights against other currencies before falling back on Friday.

The paper predicted economic growth in industrial nations in 1984 would average 4.9 per cent, led by 7.3 per cent expansion in the U.S., and slow to 3.4 per cent in 1985.

The U.S. economy was expected to slow next year with an inflation-adjusted rise of four per cent in Gross National Product (GNP).

The IMF said industrial countries should not change the current course of monetary policy.

"It is generally recognised that a looser monetary policy would not be effective in bringing down interest rates in anything other than the short run, as it would quickly rekindle inflationary fears," it said.

Saudi construction slump worries banks

BAHRAIN (R) — The boom years of government spending are over in Saudi Arabia, and construction companies in one of the world's wealthiest countries are feeling the pinch — and so are their banks.

The kingdom's oil income has fallen since the 1970s — when Saudi construction provided the bread and butter lending business of many banks in the region — and so has government spending on big infrastructure projects, in part because many of them are complete.

The result is large overcapacity in the Saudi construction sector. "There has to be a shake-out soon in the construction market," said one Bahrain-based banker.

One of the top five Saudi contracting companies, the Ali and Fahd Shobokshi Group, has asked banks for a repayments standstill and is looking for rescheduling of more than \$400 million in bank debt, bankers said.

Carlson Al Saudia, a joint venture between a Bermuda company with U.S. interests and Saudi shareholders including Prince Abdul Aziz Ibn Fahd Al Faisal, has also hit troubles and has stopped all work in the kingdom.

Its biggest contract, a subcontracting deal which Carlson Al Saudia was carrying out at Riyadh University with an estimated 1,500 employees, has been reassigned to other firms.

Bankers say up to 3,000 of the company's employees, most of them from Pakistan and the Philippines, are now stranded, while Carlson Al Saudia's foreign managers have left the country.

For many of the workers, who had put up savings to travel to the Gulf in the hopes of earning high wages, more than a few weeks' or months' money is at stake.

Some of them are now in Saudi Arabia illegally because they have lost their sponsorship — and are almost penniless.

The bankers said the problem is worsened because the Saudi authorities sometimes imprison debtors to make sure they cannot escape their obligations.

As a consequence, at the first

sign of trouble, company owners and managers flee the country leaving unpaid wages and confusion behind them.

Many bankers see the problems of Shobokshi and Carlson Al Saudia as the tip of an iceberg, and blame their troubles partly on the widespread delays in government payments to contractors.

This practice would hit the cash flow even of well-managed companies, they say.

In Saudi Arabia, where many firms have never had to consider the problems of cash management, its effects are magnified.

"When you are making 60 per cent margins, as many such companies were in the 1970s, you can get away without efficient cash management," said one banker.

"But that is not the case today."

Bankers say the cash management techniques of many companies are not equipped to cope with the new realities of work in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khail outlined the

official line on payments delays last March, saying they occurred only when contractors failed to meet obligations.

Bankers agreed there had been a need to tighten lax controls over contractors. But they said the delays are too widespread to be due solely to poor contract performance.

This year, oil production again has fallen below the 5.5 million barrels per day (b/d) implied in the budget spending total of about \$74 billion.

Apart from devaluing the rial, which raises government oil revenues in local currency terms, the government can do little to increase oil income without triggering weakness in the world oil market, something it is pledged to avoid.

On the spending side, the government is less able to rein in spending by cutting back on new contracts, since most of the big infrastructure projects are already complete or under way.

USSR, Algeria sign major contract

PARIS (R) — The Soviet Union Saturday signed a contract with Algeria for the construction of a 630-megawatt power plant in eastern Algeria, the Algerian news agency APS monitored here said.

The contract was signed between Technopromexport and Algeria's Sonelgaz, the national electricity and gas company. APS

Work on the project will start

this month and the first of three units of 210 megawatts each will become operational in 1990.

With this new plant and others under construction, Algeria's total electricity capacity will reach 5,030 megawatt by 1991, from 3,000 megawatt at the moment, APS said.

Norway devalues crown by 2%

OSLO (R) — Norway said Saturday it was devaluing the crown by two per cent to protect Norwegian exports to Europe following the rise of the U.S. dollar to a record level against the Norwegian currency last Friday.

A Bank of Norway statement said the central bank and the ministry of finance would take temporary action to keep the index of 14 currencies used to calculate the value of the crown two per cent higher than in recent months.

A bank spokeswoman said this amounted to an effective two per cent devaluation to try to counter any negative influence the rise of the crown, propelled by the dollar, might have on Norwegian trade.

The "unexpected and very strong rise of the dollar has recently contributed to a strengthening of the crown in relation to the currencies of Norway's most important trading partners," she said.

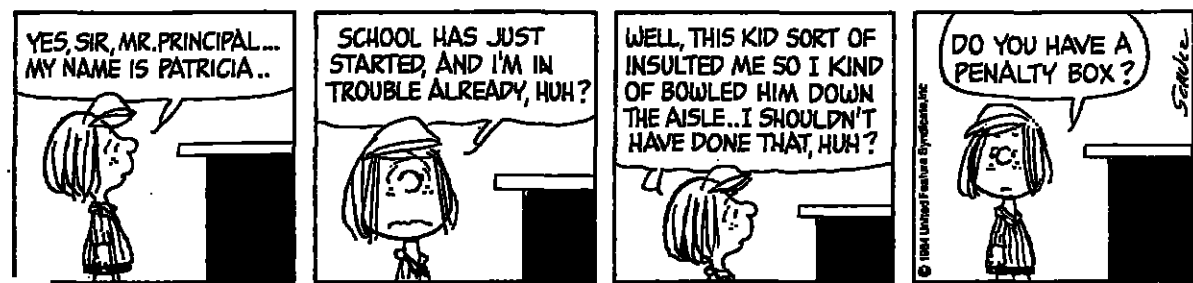
The dollar rose to a record 8.8475 Norwegian crowns at noon on Friday.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Dhaka seeks foreign crew to fly Biman

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh authorities said Sunday they were trying to borrow crew from international airlines to stand in for striking pilots and flight engineers of the national carrier Biman.

Seventy-three Biman crew members were suspended after beginning a strike on Thursday for higher pay and more benefits.

Biman has asked police to prosecute the strikers. Aviation Minister A.R. Yusuf told reporters Saturday.

A spokesman for the strikers said six pilots from Pakistan's airline PIA were now flying for Biman and negotiations were under way with the Thai, Malaysian and Philippine airlines.

Mr. Yusuf said the replacements would fly international routes as domestic operations were not a priority.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Deceptive conditions in effect make it necessary for you to be still a while and let your intuitive processes be selective about interests. Discrimination is the best means by which you can forge ahead to new success.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study the work ahead of you and do only that which is important; leave the rest for another day.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Any entertainment you have in mind should be considered from the angle of cost, so be frugal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You noticed many things that need improvement at home over the weekend, so get to work on them now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Try to analyze your friends and see if you are operating in fine accord. Get your practical affairs well handled.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Although you are generous by nature and like to think big, this is a day when you had better think of being economical.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) State your expectations to others precisely and get the right results. Make sure that your accounting is straight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Begin the week properly by very wisely getting your health and appearance at their very best.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get your ideas clear in your mind so that you will know how to proceed and get what you really want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to follow directives at your job and be precise and you will start the new week properly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Keep rooted to your work and do not run off on some tangent or you will later regret it. Show that you are stoic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Any problematical affairs of a practical nature can be worked out very well now and solved.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you keep any promises you have made to associates, you gain added good-will which is important to you. Drive carefully.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very neat and particular and want everything to be just so, and even more so upon reaching maturity. Teach early to be more concerned with the loftier aspects of life and to make allowances for human frailty. Slant the education along precision lines of work.

THE Daily Crossword by Madeline Miller

ACROSS	29 Permission to be absent	51 Express discontent	25 Laborer of old
1 Service rank	31 Related	53 Collective term	26 Style of art
6 Surrounded by	32 Stage utterance	54 Stupors	27 GWTW plantation
10 Ser. composer	33 Word with break or light	55 Durocher	28 — out (made 'do)
14 Swiftly	36 Game official	56 Policeman's deterrent	30 Ireland
15 Had on	39 Scamps	60 Stone heap	32 Of flying
16 Kazan the director	41 Summer drink	62 Thrush of Hawaii	33 Yellow flowering plant
17 Thai money	42 Correspond	63 Memory	34 Der — (Adenauer)
18 Ky. city	44 Pay one's share	64 Irregularly notched	35 Belg. river
20 Quary	45 Heavenly hunter	65 Lab event	37 Seldom
21 Baguette	46 Web maker	66 — and terminator	38 Shield
23 Particular occasion	48 Intervals	67 More reasonable	40 First murderer
24 Ma or Pa			43 On the way
26 Threnodies			45 Wild cat
27 Past and present			46 Baden

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61
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White House sees benefits, risks in Gromyko meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan is preparing for a week of foreign policy events aimed at softening the hostile tone of U.S.-Soviet relations that seems to have some American voters worried.

Aware of criticism from Democrats that he allowed relations between the superpowers to deteriorate, the president issued instructions to aides last summer that will result in his first high-level meeting with a Soviet official.

However, the session Friday with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko has exposed the president to new charges that the meeting has political undertones since it comes so close to the Nov. 6 elections.

A senior U.S. official, in a recent interview, conceded White House sensitivity to Democratic

challenger Walter Mondale's charges that Mr. Reagan was not doing enough to improve relations with the Soviet Union.

A high-level White House aide said the president had directed his aides to inform the Soviet Union that the superpowers should begin a "high level discourse," perhaps starting with a meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Mr. Gromyko.

The meeting between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gromyko was set up only after the Soviets agreed to participate with "goodwill," the official said.

The Soviets were told that "if each side enters the meetings of the secretary and foreign minister with goodwill, it ought to make possible a useful meeting with the president."

In response, according to this official, the Soviets "expressed their indication that there would be goodwill on their side, coming back and saying, we accept the meeting with the secretary and the president."

The officials commented only on condition they not be named.

Though Mr. Reagan's formal talks with Mr. Gromyko won't occur until Friday, the two men were expected to meet for the first time on Sunday night in New York at a reception the president was hosting for the 158 members of the United Nations General Assembly.

From the U.S. viewpoint, the talks Friday are expected to focus on ways to resume negotiations on reducing nuclear weapons. The Soviets walked out of the negotiations last December to protest U.S. deployment in Europe of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

Both men are scheduled to address the General Assembly. In his speech Monday morning, the president will call for the beginning of regular contacts between the two nations on the ministerial level. Mr. Gromyko addresses the General Assembly on Thursday.

Mr. Shultz will meet with Mr. Gromyko in New York on Wednesday, and will report to Mr. Reagan on the results of the session on Thursday. Mr. Mondale, the Democratic presidential nominee, is meeting with Mr. Gromyko on Thursday.

Papandreou in Libya for 1-day official visit

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreou flew to Tripoli on Sunday for a brief 24-hour visit and talks with Libyan leader Col. Moammar Qadhafi that Greek Foreign Ministry officials stressed will "focus on economic matters."

The government has been careful to play down the political implications of Mr. Papandreou's trip to Libya, the first by a European Economic Community (EEC) head of government and only the second by a NATO leader.

"This is an extremely short visit in which one or two economic agreements are likely to be signed. The focus is on boosting economic cooperation," a Foreign Ministry official said.

In the past, Libya has asked the Socialist government to sever diplomatic ties with Israel, close down American military bases in Greece and join the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Papandreou developed close personal ties with Col. Qadhafi during the 1970's, before his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) came to power.

But relations grew cooler in 1982 when Col. Qadhafi cancelled an official visit to Athens at the last minute after President Constantine Karamanlis refused to hold red-carpet ceremonies for the Libyan leader as a fellow head of state.

Greece established firm ties with Libya in the early days of the Qadhafi regime. Libyan cadets have trained at Greece's air force and naval academies for more than 10 years.

But the Socialists boast that the premier's personal friendship with Libya's strongman has enabled Greece to play a diplomatic middleman's role between Libya and the West.

"Greece acted as a mediator between Libya and France in reaching agreement on the troop withdrawals from Chad," government Spokesman Dimitri Maroudas told reporters last week.

Earlier this year, in response to a personal request to Mr. Papandreou from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Greece helped British consular officials gain access to five Britons jailed in Tripoli, he said.

At the same time, the Socialist government stepped in to channel payment in crude oil of Libya's debts to private Greek construction companies working there.

Over the past three months, the amount outstanding has shrunk from \$110 million to only \$10 million, according to the government spokesman.

Foreign Ministry sources said Greece is anxious to firm up increased exports of agricultural products and more engineering contracts with Libya, in order to offset growing competition from Turkey.

Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal went to Tripoli earlier this year, where Turkish firms have packed up several billion dollars' worth of engineering work.

"We're anxious the Turks shouldn't get ahead of us when it comes to Libyan contracts. That's one reason for such a high-level visit," a Foreign Ministry source said.

During a visit to Athens last June, Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salem Treiki held talks with Defence Ministry officials on possible purchases of Greek small arms and construction of naval patrol vessels at Greek shipyards.

IAEA to open annual Vienna meeting today

VIENNA (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) opens its annual conference in Vienna Monday threatened with renewed disruption over Israel's 1981 attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

A decision by the 1982 conference to effectively suspend Israeli membership because of the attack led the United States to quit the U.S.-related body temporarily. Last year Washington, the biggest funds contributor, threatened permanent withdrawal.

But IAEA officials said the row has lost much of its earlier steam. Although the conference is again to debate the consequences of the Israeli attack, there is a growing wish among members for more science and less politics at the meeting.

Since last year new developments in the nuclear world have grabbed public attention and are likely to generate important discussion this week.

Moscow announced it would open civil nuclear plants to IAEA inspection and safeguards. China has joined and will be here with a large delegation led by Nuclear Minister Jiang Xinqing.

The sinking off Belgium of the freighter *Mont Louis* with a mildly radioactive cargo has unleashed public debate on the safety of nuclear transport.

Diplomats in Vienna cautioned

against reading too much into the Soviet gesture. Its impact on nuclear disarmament forums would be minimal, they said.

But the move was a small step towards flexibility on nuclear verification, a sensitive issue in Moscow.

The conference has to approve an amendment of the IAEA statute to make room for China on its board of governors.

Peking's membership aroused political interest around the world as well as commercial hopes of a big new market. Transfer of nuclear technology is limited if states do not adhere to the IAEA or the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

China, which has nuclear weapons but has not signed the treaty, says it discriminates against developing countries, but has given verbal pledges not to help other states acquire nuclear arms.

IAEA Director General Hans Blix, who will make an opening speech Monday, is expected to call on other nations to ratify an international convention on physical protection of nuclear material, drafted at the IAEA in 1980.

The treaty, which would help to enforce uniform safety procedures for nuclear shipments, has been provisionally signed by 37 states but ratified by only 10.

It needs 21 ratifiers before enforcement.

Ferraro says she is victim of slur campaign

NEW YORK (R) — Democratic vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, who alleges she is the victim of an organized slur campaign, said a telephone system had been set up to keep protesters informed on her movements.

"There is evidence of a phone system in place... where people are advised of my presence and all of my activities," Ms. Ferraro told a news conference Saturday night outside her home in Queens. "That seems organized to me."

Ms. Ferraro also said that the same signs carried by protesters kept cropping up at her rallies, providing further evidence of an organized campaign.

She said that one sign that appeared at rallies read "dead Democrats don't vote" and another showed three tombstones and the inscription "Gerry's kids". Ms. Ferraro has three children.

"Some of the stuff gets a little bit harder than partisan politics. The signs we are seeing are slurs,"

Ms. Ferraro said.

Ms. Ferraro, who is campaigning against President Reagan for the Nov. 6 election alongside Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale, alleged on a radio talk show in Los Angeles on Thursday that she was the target of an organized slur campaign.

Campaign Manager John Sasso said the accusation was based in part on a news report that the Reagan campaign was organizing young people to stage demonstrations against Mr. Mondale and Ms. Ferraro.

NBC News reported on Thursday night that Ms. Ferraro and Mr. Mondale were the victims of an orchestrated attempt to undermine their campaign led by long-time Reagan adviser Lyn Nofziger and Edward Rollins, President Reagan's campaign director.

NBC said the strategy was to have groups or individuals not connected with the campaign

demand investigations of Ms. Ferraro's finances and orchestrate anti-abortion demonstrations — Ms. Ferraro has advocated the woman's constitutional freedom to choose.

The Reagan campaign has denied the charges.

Ms. Ferraro commented: "If all this stuff is true and they're organizing from the White House, my reaction is why don't they come out and fight like men?"

Ms. Ferraro's campaign aides feel that the 49-year-old congresswoman has shown her strongest electioneering performance to date in a four-day swing through six states this week.

"This was the first week we were able to deliver our message on our own terms," said her Press Secretary Francis O'Brien. Aides said Ms. Ferraro was able to concentrate on campaign issues and not get sidetracked by questions over her personal finances or her stand on abortion.

Mondale adds flavour in campaign rhetoric

By David Espo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just as he did earlier this year when his candidacy was in peril, Walter Mondale has added flavouring to his style and spice to his rhetoric as he campaigns uphill against a man he now refers to as a "hollywood" president.

At rallies almost every day now, Mr. Mondale removes his jacket, rolls up the sleeves of his white shirt, loosens his tie and rips into the president with an intensity that had been lacking.

In the early days of the general election campaign, he talked softly about issues. But now President Ronald Reagan is his target.

"What we've got here is a Hollywood, question-free, isolated president, travelling around the country in a cocoon," Mr. Mondale said at one stop last week in Stockton, California.

And he now makes a point of taking questions from his audiences.

He told one crowd in Seattle, "I'm telling you the truth now, not after the election. I'm answering

the questions put to me by the press, by the American people every day."

Mr. Reagan, he said, offers "no news conferences, no chance to ask questions, no citizens' forums, just daily, celluloid, cameo performances."

The Mondale changes came after a rocky start to his general election campaign, when U.S. House Speaker Thomas O'Neill Jr. and other Democrats were urging him to be more aggressive.

Last week, the campaign

NEWS ANALYSIS

crowds he saw were generally larger and more enthusiastic than the ones he appeared before earlier.

The shift resembles the transformation Mondale underwent last spring when a virtually unknown U.S. Senator Gary Hart threatened to knock him out of the nominating campaign with early season primary and caucus victories.

It was then that the "fighting Fritz" image was created — an imperial candidate turned underdog fighting for a cause he believed in — as Mr. Mondale lo-

Soviet president turns 73 today

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko celebrates his 73rd birthday Monday in apparent poor health and amid growing speculation about his political authority in the Kremlin.

The Communist Party chief, in power for seven months, has disproved rumours that he was seriously incapacitated through illness by making three televised appearances in the past three weeks.

But the film clips showed Mr. Chernenko looking much more frail than before he vanished from public view for seven weeks in July and Western diplomats said he came across as a man who was ailing and lacking vigour.

The president's three appearances have done little to counter a growing impression among diplomats that he has failed to assert political control in the Kremlin and that his authority may have waned in the past three months.

Diplomatic analysts cite two indicators to back up this argument.

First, there have been relatively few references to Mr. Chernenko in the Soviet press since July except when he has issued occasional statements or made one of his public appearances.

Past leaders were regularly cited in commentaries dealing with political or economic matters. Former President Leonid Brezhnev would often be quoted in every major article in the Communist Party daily Pravda.

Second, the diplomats say both foreign and domestic policy show a lack of direction and energy which appears to indicate there is no firm guidance from the top.

President Yuri Andropov died last February after a long illness had kept him out of public view for six months. During that period a stream of statements were issued in his name and a programme of internal economic reforms was launched.

Most diplomatic analysts believe that in the absence of a powerful figurehead, policy-making is seriously hampered by rivalries between different factions in the leadership.

Despite Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's planned meeting with President Reagan this week, they predict that this deadlock will continue and may prevent Moscow taking any major initiatives to improve East-West ties in the near future.

Most of the predictions about Mr. Chernenko's ability to strengthen his position focus on the question of his health.

Western medical experts say he appears to be suffering from emphysema, a distension of the lungs which can lead to sporadic periods of illness.

In his television appearances, Mr. Chernenko looked stiff and ill at ease and had obvious difficulty breathing.

Western television technicians said there had been nine cuts in the film of a three-minute address

he made to Finland last Friday, indicating that it had been made in several takes and not read out all at once.

Western diplomats said that the televised appearances appeared intended to show Mr. Chernenko was in control but had in many ways only increased doubts about him.

While doubts about Mr. Chernenko have increased, two rivals for the succession have been boosting their public image.

Politburo members Mikhail Gorbachev, 53, and Grigory Romanov, 60, were both given the kind of television coverage usually reserved for party chiefs while on recent trips abroad.

Some diplomats believe this indicated that senior Communist officials may be considering forcing Mr. Chernenko to step down if his health does not improve.

But others view such a step, which would be unprecedented, as highly improbable, especially as the leader almost certainly still enjoys broad support among older-generation party officials.

The president's birthday may offer new evidence for assessments on both his physical and political condition.

Mr. Brezhnev was publicly honoured on each birthday and usually given some kind of medal. Doubts about Mr. Chernenko's future are likely to intensify if he does not receive similar treatment.

CYPRIOT ENVOY IN CAIRO: Cyprus agreed to restore diplomatic relations earlier this year following a six-year rupture (AP wirephoto)

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (third from left) Sunday receives the credentials of the new Cypriot ambassador to Egypt, Soliris Elinas. Egypt and

COLUMN

Britons protest over ritual slaughter

LONDON (R) — An Iranian envoy is being reported to the British government over an incident in which a sheep was ritually slaughtered in a London street, police said Sunday. The unnamed diplomat and five other Iranians took the sheep from a house in Rochampton, south London, Sunday and one man then slit its throat, neighbours said. Police interviewed a diplomat who owns the house but said there would be no charges under British animal cruelty laws as the man had claimed diplomatic immunity. David Mellor, the district's member of parliament, said he would report the diplomat to Britain's Foreign Office. He said: "This sort of behaviour is barbaric and totally unacceptable."

China to launch women's newspaper

PEKING (R) — China will launch its first women's newspaper next month, the official New China News Agency (NCNA) said Sunday. It said China's women, a four-page weekly, would reflect the views and aspirations of Chinese women and defend their legitimate rights and interests. NCNA said the newspaper would be available throughout China and cover such topics as law, children, education, love, family life, science, literature and art. The Communist Party has always proclaimed a policy of fighting the traditionally low status of women in China, but recognises that the problem is still serious. Earlier this year a group of Peking lawyers started giving free advice on women's and children's rights in such issues as domestic violence, adultery, divorce, discrimination at work and sharing housework.

Queen Elizabeth meets new grandson

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth Saturday had her first glimpse of her latest grandson Prince Harry a week after he was born, officials said. The prince, the second son of the Queen's son and heir Prince Charles and his wife, Princess Diana, was born in London on Saturday. The Queen, who was on holiday in Scotland at the time, Saturday travelled from London to Tetbury, western England, and saw the baby prince at his parents' home, Highgrove House.

Soviet pornographic video traders jailed

MOSCOW (R) — Three men from Soviet Turkmenistan have been sentenced to jail for showing pornographic video films, the provincial newspaper "Spark of Turkmenistan" said Saturday. In an article headed "Forbidden Fruit is Bitter," the newspaper said bachelor Kamal Iskandarov, 36, bought a video recorder and pornographic tapes "of foreign production" for 10,000 rubles (\$8,000). He and two friends recouped some of the money by showing the films to visitors at 25 rubles (\$20) a time. Article 228 of the Soviet Criminal Code prohibits the circulation of pornographic material, an offence which carries a maximum prison sentence of three years. The length of sentences imposed on the three men was not given.

Heart surgeon backs euthanasia

NICE, France (R) — Pioneer heart transplant surgeon Christian Barnard Saturday urged the legalisation of euthanasia by physicians, saying that putting people painlessly to death could often be a very good medical treatment. "I'm totally in favour of euthanasia," Dr. Barnard told reporters covering an international congress of supporters of euthanasia. "A law should be made so that doctors can practice active euthanasia within the boundaries of the law." Dr. Barnard is attending the Nice Congress of the Federation of Associations for the Right to Die in Dignity, a group backing patients who wish to choose their moment of death. The South African doctor became world famous when he performed the world's first successful heart transplant operation in 1967. "I believe that often death is very good medical treatment because it can achieve what all the medical advances and technology cannot achieve today and that is to stop the suffering of the patient," Dr. Barnard said.

Nicaragua ready to sign Contadora peace proposal

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua said it had accepted in full a treaty for Central America drafted by the Contadora Peace Group and would sign it immediately.

The decision, reversing Managua's earlier reluctance to sign, was announced in a letter from junta coordinator Daniel Ortega to the Contadora members — Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela — and to the other Central American countries.

The letter was sent Friday night and published Saturday. Contadora foreign ministers, who began their peace efforts in January last year, met their Central American colleagues earlier this month to revise previous peace proposals and agree on a draft treaty.

Details of the revised accord have not been disclosed. But Venezuela Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul and his Colombian colleague Augusto Ramirez Ocampo said Saturday Nicaragua's stated willingness to sign it bore hope for peace.

Honduras, the staunchest U.S. ally in the region, and Guatemala accepted the latest proposal but Nicaragua had been opposed to

clauses limiting armaments, which the Sandinist government said was needed for defence against U.S. aggression.

Mr. Ortega's letter also asked the United States to ratify the treaty and end all aggression against Nicaragua.

The U.S. has been arming and financing an army of right-wing rebels to counter what it sees as Managua's export of Marxist revolution to its neighbours.

Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council meanwhile announced that following a petition by the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), the Democratic Coordinator opposition alliance would have until Sept. 30 to register candidates for November general elections.

Coordinator leader Luis Rivas Leiva said the four parties in the alliance, which up to now has refused to register candidates unless the junta held talks with the rebels, still insisted on such a dialogue.

He said the Coordinator was hoping now for a postponement of the elections, due on Nov. 4, until early 1985.

Bishop provokes storm over sermon on U.K. strikes

LONDON (R) — A British bishop has provoked a political storm with a strong attack on the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over her handling of the miners' strike.

The attack brought forth a torrent of abuse from Conservative politicians, who called Bishop David Jenkins of Durham a "gutted politician" and a "nutcase."

Bishop Jenkins added his voice to demands from opposition politicians and mine union leaders that the American head of the state-run National Coal Board, Ian MacGregor, be sacked.

The 28-week-old strike, fought over the issue of jobs, has become an intensely personal battle between Mr. MacGregor and Mr. Arthur Scargill, the Marxist leader

of Britain's Mining Union (NUM). The bishop has sparked one of the liveliest rows to ruffle relations between the Conservatives and the Church of England, which used to be dubbed the "Tory (Conservative) Party at prayer."

At his enthronement in Durham Cathedral two days ago he accused Mrs. Thatcher's government of being indifferent to poverty.

"The miners must not be defeated," he said. Outraged Conservatives Saturday hit back.

One member of parliament, Antony Beaumont-Dark, said: "He is in a long line of zany bishops who are quite outrageous... A lot of people will think he's a nutcase (insane). I certainly do."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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TECHNIQUE CAN VARY BY TRICKS

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A 8 3 2
♥ A K 3
♦ J 7 6 3
♣ K 5

WEST EAST
♠ Q 10 ♠ J 9 6 5
♥ J 10 9 8 2 ♥ 7 5
♦ Q ♥ Q 9 8 2
♣ Q 10 9 7 2 ♠ 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ K 7 4
♥ Q 6 4
♦ A 10 5 4
♣ A 1 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

How you play a particular card combination varies according to how many tricks you need to get from the suit. On this hand, the diamond suit is the key. How would you tackle the suit?

The auction was straightforward. South showed a balanced hand of no more than 15 points, and North saw no point in showing his diamond support—why try for an eleven-trick contract when a perfectly acceptable no trump game was available?

Now let's go back to the question we posed at the end of the opening paragraph. If declarer needs three tricks in diamonds, he must guess which opponent is shorter in the suit. If he elects to play

West for the shortness, the right play is to lead a low diamond toward the jack and, if West goes up with an honor, then to cross to the table and finesse the ten of diamonds. If declarer thinks that East is short in diamonds, he should start the suit from the board and finesse the ten on the first round.

On this hand, however, declarer has eight last tricks. Therefore, he needs to develop only one extra diamond trick for his contract. In addition, the enemy have started a suit in which he has three stoppers, so he has plenty of time in which to develop a second diamond trick.

If the suit splits 3-2, it makes no difference how declarer goes about his job. What if the break is 4-1, or even 5-0?

At the table, declarer won the heart lead in dummy and led a diamond to the ace. When West dropped the queen, the hand was over. Declarer's play catered to all diamond divisions. It is obvious how the play would proceed if the suit divided 3-2 or if either defender had a singleton honor. But what if the suit broke 4-1 or 5-0, with a defender having both missing honors?

Declarer continues with a low diamond to the jack. No matter which defender has diamond length, declarer will always come to a second trick in the suit. Try it.